STARS STRIPES.

AFN closes **Frankfurt** studio for good

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Pumped-up prices: **AAFES** gas costs to climb 11 cents

Louisville Slugger to sell Hall of Famers' treasures

Collector's dream:

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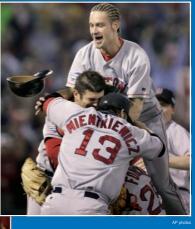
Pentagon forced to stop anthrax shots

Judge rules FDA improperly approved vaccine for use Page 3

From cursed to first

Red Sox top Cardinals to finish improbable sweep, wins first World Series since 1918 Back nage





ove: Boston pitcher Bronson Arroyo leaps on top of teammates ies title in 86 years Wednesday at Busch Stadium in St.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Laci Peterson trial: Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder trial were sent home Wednesday with orders to return Monday for closing arguments after prosecutors and defense attorneys decided against calling additional witnesses.

Prosecutors had said they planned to call eight witnesses after Peterson's lawyers ended their case Tuesday. But when jurors returned Wednesday afternoon, Judge Alfred A. Delucchi said both sides had decided against having additional testimony in the five-month-long case.

Instead, Delucchi read four statements into the record. They dealt with testimony regarding concrete work being done at the home of the Petersons' neighbor, an e-mail recovered from the couple's computer, a store receipt and a printout regarding San Francisco Bay from Scott Peterson's computer.

Clinton's health: Former President Clinton may be out on the campaign trail, but he says he feels a bit detached "from the to and fro of the elections."

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC News' "Primetime Live," Clinton also says he prayed for his family before his Sept. 6 heart bypass operation and enjoyed the enforced rest that followed.

"I feel kind of distant from the to and fro of the elections," Clinton says in excerpts made available Wednesday, "and a lot of these things I see happening, I just shake my head and say, Gosh, I did that for 20 years, I know, but it doesn't have much to do with how we're gonna live when it's over.' On the other hand, I think it matters profoundly."

He says he suffered no depression after the surgery and didn't mind the recuperation.

Philadelphia corruption probe: Prosecutors won four convictions Wednesday in a case related to a wide-ranging corruption investigation that involved FBI wiretapping of city officials and their political supporters.

Faridah Ali, 54, the director of a Muslim school in Philadelphia, was convicted on charges she conspired to defraud a city community college of about \$224,000 by setting up an adult education program involving nonexistent students and classes.

Ali's two children, Lakiha Spicer, 27, and Azheem Spicer, 30, were convicted of accepting money to teach courses in the program when they actually performed little work. Eugene D. Weaver III, 30, the son of a Philadelphia Community College administrator, was convicted on the same grounds.

Business

Delta Air Lines woes: Delta Air Lines Inc. took a giant step away from bankruptcy when the pilots union tentatively agreed to a \$1 billion package of contract concessions,



Love assault case: Courtney Love leaves Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner Sanjay Kumar ordered the singer to stand trial on a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon after listening to testimory from the alleged victim, Kristin King, and a neighbor in the area of the April 25 incident. "There is uncontroverted evidence that without provocation the defendant threw a bottle at the victim and chased her with a flashlight," Kumar said. Love was ordered to appear for arraignment Nov. 10.

including a 32.5 percent wage cut.

The deal was reached Wednesday after 15 months of negotiations that have intensified in recent days, said Karen Miller, spokes-

woman for the Air Line Pilots Association.

The wage cut becomes effective Dec. 1, and the agreement includes no wage increases for five years. The union rank and file will vote on the plan from Monday to Nov. 11.

World

Gibraltar talks: Spain and Britain agreed on Wednesday to include Gibraltar for the first time in talks over the disputed territory's future.

Spain's Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos met with his British counterpart Jack Straw in Madrid to discuss a new approach to a 300-year-old conflict.

The new focus will be aimed at improving relations between all parts involved and build at atmosphere of confidence, although Spain will continue to press to recover sovereignty over the Rock at its southern tip.

"I believe Gibraltar won't be a sticky issue any longer in our relations," Moratinos said at a press conference with Straw. "It will become an issue where things will be worked out within a framework of cooperation and dialogue to resolve the different daily problems of the population," he said. Negotiations over the future of the British

Negotiations over the future of the British colony came to a halt in Nov. 2002, when Gibraltar's 30,000 residents voted overwhelmingly in a nonbinding referendum against the idea of shared British-Spanish rule

Dafur crisis: Rebel accusations that fresh government air-raids killed 26 civilians in Sudan's troubled Darfur region have cast a pall over peace talks in Nigeria, where African Union mediators trying to end the conflict are making little headway.

Mahgoup Hussain, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan Liberation Army, said Wednesday that the bombings occurred Tuesday and Wednesday in the town of Allaiat, in eastern Darfur. But Lt. Gen. Mohammed Ismail, the deputy chief of staff of the Sudanese army, said there had been no fresh violence in the area.

Mine-clearing deaths: Prosecutors have dropped charges against two mine-clearing instructors from Britain and Bosnia who had been investigated in the May deaths of two Albanian trainees, officials said Thursday.

Handicap International, which oversaw the training, said charges were dismissed against Graham Rees of Britain, and U.N. officials in Albania said Emin Durakovic of Bosnia also was cleared of wrongdoing.

Rees, 45, and Durakovic, 40, were charged with violating rules on handling explosives after a May 24 explosion at a course they held in Kukes killed two Albanians and injured 15 others.

Bosnia's missing persons: Forensics experts said Wednesday they have generated DNA profiles from bone samples for more than 10,000 bodies unearthed from mass graves across the former Yugoslavia.

Adnan Rizvic, deputy head of the forensic science department of the International Commission for Missing Persons, said the profiles represent a third of all those still missing after the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The samples are ready to be matched with DNA taken from relatives of the missing.

Madrid bombings: In the first trial stemming from the train bombings in Madrid, Spain, a prosecutor will seek an eight-year jail term for a Spanish teenager charged with transporting dynamite used in the attacks, court officials said Thursday.

The juvenile-court trial of the 16-year-old is expected to be held behind closed doors next month. The boy's identity is known but Spanish media are barred from publishing it.

A National Court prosecutor announced Wednesday night she will seek eight years in a juvenile detention center for the boy, and after that five years' probation.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Corrections

■ The list of casualties in Thursday's editions included incorrect information about the death of Army Sgt. Dennis J. Boles of Homosassa, Fla. Boles died Sunday after completing a 10-mile run.

■ The caption with a photo in Thursday's editions about the community expo at Dexheim, Germany, misidentified the 3rd Corps Support Command.

Note to readers

Because of production problems at the Stars and Stripes print site in Griesheim, Germany, papers were not delivered to the United Kingdom until mid-day Thursday. Stripes regrets the inconvenience.



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Court orders DOD to stop anthrax shots

Judge rules mandatory program 'illegal,' says FDA wrongly approved vaccine

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department must immedi-ately stop inoculating soldiers with anthrax vaccine, a federal judge ruled Wednesday, saying the Food and Drug Administra tion acted improperly when it approved the experimental injections for general use.

Concluding that the FDA violated its own rules by approving the vaccine late last year, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan said the mandatory vaccination program - which has inoculated more than 1.2 million soldiers since 1998 — is "illegal."

Sullivan wrote that his han on involuntary vaccination will remain until the FDA reviews the anthrax vaccine properly or until President Bush determines the normal process must be waived

due to emergency circumstances. The Defense Department has

required many soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan to be vaccinated and has punished and sometimes court-martialed those who refused. The department expand-ed its anthrax and smallpox vaccination programs in July to include troops stationed in South Korea and other areas in Asia and Africa, despite complaints from some soldiers that the vaccine made them sick

In a statement, the Defense Department said it is reviewing the decision and will "pause giving anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation is clarified. ... DoD remains convinced that the anthrax immunization program complies with all the legal requirements and that the anthrax vaccine is safe and effective."

In his decision, Sullivan wrote that the FDA's approval was invalid because it did not meet required review standards and failed to seek the necessary public comment

"Congress has prohibited the administration of investigational drugs to service members with-out their consent," he said. "This Court will not permit the government to circumvent this require-

"The men and women of our armed forces deserve the assurance that the vaccines our government compels them to take into their bodies have been tested by the greatest scrutiny of all - public scrutiny

This is the process the FDA in its expert judgment has outlined, and this is the course this court shall compel FDA to follow," Sulli-

The judge ruled on a suit filed in March 2003 by six servicemembers who argued that the FDA never properly reviewed the vaccine for its ability to protect against inhalation anthrax. The suit claimed that the drug was never shown to be effective, and that some vaccinated soldiers have experienced extreme fatigue, joint pain and temporary memory loss after being vaccinat-

The vaccine made by BioPort of Lansing, Mich., is given as a series of several shots.

Mark Zaid, an attorney for the six who has also defended more than a dozen servicemembers court-martialed for refusing the vaccine, said one of his clients was a breast-feeding mother who did not think the vaccine was safe for her child.

"We will now initiate an effort to ensure the government reverses all nunishments that were imposed for refusing an order to take the vaccine," Zaid said. He also will seek compensation for soldiers who were physically

"As we've seen in Iraq, there wasn't any actual threat from anthrax, so there was never any real need for the vaccine," Zaid said. Sullivan initially ruled in late 2003 that the FDA had never approved the vaccine and ordered oculations to stop. Eight days later, the FDA approved the vaccine based on an application made 18 years earlier, and the inoculation program resumed. Wednesday's ruling concluded the agency did not follow its own rules in deciding the vaccine was safe and effective.

In particular, Sullivan criti-cized the FDA for not allowing public comment on its decision a prerequisite for any approval.

The FDA argued that some comments had been submitted as part of a 2001 citizens' petition questioning proposals to begin vaccinations, but Sullivan found them insufficient. "It is clear to this Court that if the status of the anthrax vaccine were open for public comment today, the agency would receive a deluge of comments and analysis that might inform an open-minded agency," he wrote.

Washington Post staff writer Bradley Graham and researcher Madonna Lebling contributed to this report.

Rising fuel costs

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service announced that one prices a gallon in most countries in Europe.

A look at stateside prices: Regular Premium Current average \$2,032 \$2,157 \$2,236 \$2.244 \$2,015 Month ago average \$1,907 \$2,025 \$2,099 \$1.540 \$1,635 \$1.552 Year ago average \$1,694

AAFES gas prices climb

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

U.S. drivers in Europe should stock up on fuel coupons this weekend before prices jump on Monday.

Fuel costs will climb next month as military officials increase prices by an average of about 11 cents per gallon for reguunleaded, super super-plus gas, according to an Army and Air Force Exchange Service announcement. The price of diesel fuel is also going up in most areas by an average two cents per gallon

The spike coincides with soaring prices in the United States. and prices could remain higher for the near future, AAFES offi-

For example, the nationwide average for regular unleaded is now \$2.02, up 14 cents from last month and nearly 50 cents from this time last year, according to

While still a fraction of the cost of European prices at the pump, U.S. prices for most coupon users will still be considerably higher than average U.S. prices.

Here's how the new fuel costs, per gallon, will break down as

- Germany: regular unleaded \$2.138; super-unleaded \$2.235; super-plus - \$2.324; diesel - \$2.251
- United Kingdom: super-unleaded - \$2.169; diesel - \$2.185. (Super-plus is not available in the
- United Kingdom) ■ The Netherlands: super-unleaded - \$2.325; super-plus -
- \$2.577; diesel \$2.503. ■ Turkey: regular unleaded -\$1.996; super-unleaded - \$2.340; diesel - \$2 340
- Azores: super-plus \$1.982. Blaming the spike on increasing demand in China, along with potential disruptions in supply from war-torn Iraq as well as Russia and Venezuela, AAFES officials warn to "expect gasoline prices to remain high as long as demand remains strong and in-

pected." With a nod to troops returning home from extended deployments, military officials have extended Series 5 coupons with Sept. 30, 2004, expiration dates bought in Germany or the Netherlands to April 30, 2005.

ventories remain lower than ev-

The old coupons, however, are good at on-base military gas sta-

oni@mail.estrines.osd.mil

Friends mourn loss of a comrade

Corporal was found dead in Cambrai-Fritsch barracks

BY JESSICA INIGO Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany When Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Gethers, the acting first sergeant for Company C. 440th Signal Battalion, belted out Cpl. Jacques Francois Kessler's name, there were muffled sobs.

No one in the packed community chapel answered for the missing corporal, so instead, the volleys of a 21-gun salute replied for the crowd. The corporal is dead.

memorial service for Kessler, who was found dead in his Cambrai-Fritsch Casern barracks room late Monday morning, was held Thursday afternoon at the small community chapel.

The community's grief was seen in the faces of mourners. Many unit members, friends, and co-workers spoke of the "sudden

and unexpected death," of Kessler, who was president of the 233rd Base Support Battalion Better Onportunities for Single Soldiers program

Jayme Loppnow, a spokeswoman for the 233rd BSB said the Criminal Investigation Com-

mand has taken charge of the in- could always "take things in vestigation, but is not speculating stride" and "have a smile on his or releasing any information on how Kessler died

hasn't been given much informa- ing the service, saving Kessler's



Spc. Gene Brown, left, of the 440th Signal Battalion, comforts mourners Thursday at Cpl. Jacques François Kessler's memorial service at the Cambrai-Fritsch Casern chapel in Darmstadt, Germany. Kessler was found dead Monday in his barracks room.

tion about his son's death. "I don't know anything," John

Kessler said during a telephone interview from his Ohio home "I don't want to say anything that

44 We should not

arieve his

death, but

celebrate the

life he had.

might be contradictory ... but there are rumors I hear everything from foul play to snicide We'll inst have to wait and

find out." At the memoriservice, bri-Cpl. James gade and compa-Vernon Ridings nv commanders remembered A friend of Col. Jacques

Jacques Kessler Francois Kessler as a troop who

Cnl. James Vernon Ridings of-Kessler's father, John, said he fered a tribute to his friend durenergy is what drew people to

"We should not grieve his death, but celebrate the life he had," Ridings said while controlling the emotion in his voice.

At the end of the service, photos of Kessler were displayed on a projection screen, many of which where taken with the unit while deployed.

John Kessler said his son had a difficult time when the unit deployed to Iraq in March 2003. His son had "command problems" that never got resolved after returning to Darmstadt, the father

He called the details surrounding his son's death confusing.

John Kessler said he doesn't know what to believe and hopes the military finds out something

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.estripes.os



The "ON AIR" lights are out forever at the American Forces Network studios in Frankfurt, Germany. After nearly 60 years of broadcasting from the city, the network and its European headquarters have moved to a new location - Mannheim, Germany,

Silence in Frankfurt: AFN fades to black

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — There was fall foliage on the floor, pastries on a platter and the sounds of the last "AFN Morning Newswatch" wafting through the studio

"It's been a long and wild ride," Army Staff Sgt. Scott Malone, the morning news anchor, calmly announced as the final seconds ticked away. From behind a nearby mike,

Herb Glover, a guest announcer, smiled "Stay tuned." said the retired 43-year AFN hand.

After six decades of broadcast

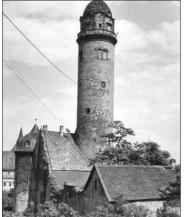
service to troops in Europe and beyond, the American Forces Nethome of AFN-Europe

to close the 38-year-old studio. in transition. Gear is coming down from the rafters, offices are being emptied and the size of the change in the air: autumn leaves scattered here and there on the floor, as if to tell everyone that it's time to go

"I wanted to close this place

work pulled the plug Thursday on its operations in Frankfurt Later in the day, once the afternoon news show wrapped up, Mannheim formally became the new While plenty of work remains

there are obvious signs of a place staff is skeletal. A further hint of



In its first 21 years, AFN-Europe was located in the Von Brüning Castle in Höchst, which is now part of Frankfurt. The structure, which was constructed in the 14th century, was believed to be the oldest building to house an American radio station.

to leave in May but was granted a six-month extension to remain in Frankfurt. "To be associated with the last show was a great honor."

melancholy, given all the memo-The last day, Glover said, "is

not a celebration but an observance '

For weeks, if not months, equipment and personnel have been rolling south on Autobahn 5 toward the network's new home on Coleman Barracks. The Mannheim facility, formerly a mess hall, is equipped with cutting-edge technology that will greatly enhance AFN's broadcasting canabilities

"The new facility is, indeed, super," news director Gary Bautell said during the morning show. "It is state-of-the-art in every way. ... It is hard to find an adjective to describe the jump we are taking. AFN took the leap to leave

Frankfurt for a variety of rea-The drawdown of U.S. forces in

the 1990s left the AFN folks in Frankfurt largely isolated from its audience. In addition, Army officials grew increasingly concerned about the safety of AFN personnel, given their high-profile mis-

sion Glover. was the chief civilian executive for the network at the time, said the network in the late 1990s looked at many notential sites. from a named casern Frankenstein to a cham pagne house.

Given where AFN settled when it arrived in Frankfurt in 1945, those options may not have seemed so absurd.



erican Forces Network news director Gary Bautell, left, and former AFN director of broadcast services Herb Glover talk about the history of AFN in Frankfurt during the "AFN Morning Newswatch" show on the network's last day of broadcast from the Frankfurt studios.

For its first 21 years in the city AFN-Europe was headquartered

the in von Brüning Castle in 44 The new facility Höchst, which is now part of Frankis, indeed. furt. The network moved in 1966 to super. It is a site adjacent to Hessischer Rundstate-of-the-art funk, the state of in everu Hessen's broadcast network. way.... It is Glover. hard to find an

along with Bautell spent Thursday regaling listeners with stories from yesteryear, said the new site even included a heliconter-landing pad, which is long gone.

Gary Bautell

adjective to

describe the

iump we

are takina.

"Everybody AFN news director was in awe of this new, state-of-theart facility," Bautell said during a radio break, referring to the Frankfurt facility.

> Glover paid special tribute to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who

World War II. It was Eisenhower, he noted, who had the foresight and interest in establishing a radio network for U.S. soldiers and sailors "Eisenhower is our godfather."

commanded Allied forces during

Glover said.

As U.S. forces were preparing to invade the continent. Glover said, they grew tired of the stiffness of the British Broadcasting Corporation's radio shows. So much so, he added, "that our guys used to listen to the Nazi propaganda channels because they played better music.'

Those days are long gone.

Today, Malone said, AFN is heard by U.S. military and civilian personnel in more than 60 countries.

Malone is due to depart Europe in a month or so. He said he plans to fill in from time to time, if needed, in Mannheim.

"I'm still not quite ready to leave," Malone said after the show. "I've got some things to

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Air Force adds five specialties to CJR list

BY LISA BURGESS

Stare and Strings

ARLINGTON, Va. - Air Force officials are tweaking the career job reservation, or CJR, list, adding five specialties to the "constrained" list, for which re-enlistments are prohibited without an airman retraining into another field, and dropping six other jobs from the roster.

Rules requires all first-term airmen must have an approved ca-reer job reservation before they can re-enlist, and only first-term airmen selected for re-enlistment by their commander are allowed to apply for a CJR.

If an airman has not gotten a CJR in the job he or she wants by the end of the re-enlistment window, he or she must either retrain into a shortage career field or leave the service.

Effective Oct. 1, the five newly constrained jobs. Mitchell said, in-

clude ■1T1X1 — Aircrew life sup-

■ 2A3X3b — Tactical aircraft maintenance for the F-16 and F-117 2A5X3D — Integrated avionics systems, communication,

navigation and mission ■ 2E1X4 — Visual imagery and

■ 3C0X1 — Communications computer systems operations

■ Also effective Oct. 1. the six iobs removed from the CJR list include

■ 2A5X2 — helicopter mainte-

■ 2M0X2 - missile and space systems maintenance ■ 2R0X1 — maintenance man-

agement analysis ■ 2T3X5 — vehicle hody main

tenance ■ 2W1X1X — aircraft armament systems (includes basic job

code and all suffixes)

■ 3E0X1 — electrical systems

The CJR was first used in the late 1990s, when retention was poor, but certain career fields were overmanned and those peo-

ple could be used elsewhere, according to service officials.

Now the service has a different problem: Despite a number of manning programs, the service is still over its congressionally authorized end strength by 12,453 airmen, Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens said Thursday.

The service has several "force shaping" options, including incentives to get people to join reserve units and the new "Blue to Green" interservice transfer program to the Army, which needs to add 20,000 soldiers to its rosters

Force shaping also includes the CJR, which Air Force officials decided to reinstate in May with 30 iobs listed as "constrained.

Air Staff officials look at job manning levels every month and adjust the CJR list as necessary "because we constantly have peonle coming in and leaving " Master Sgt. Randy Mitchell, a spokesman for the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, told Stripes Thurs-

day in a telephone interview. For more information on the CJR and a list of constrained job fields, airmen should go to their Military Personnel Flight's re-enlistment office, or visit the CJR Web site at www.afpc.randol-ph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlist

ments/CJR.htm E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

DODDS pupils re-elect Bush in several mock elections

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Strines

While President Bush and Sen. John Kerry may be neck and neck in presiden-tial election polls, if it were up to pupils from Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe, Bush would win by a landslide

Pupils from all grades in many schools in Europe have been participating in mock elections or other election week events. Votes at many of the participating schools put Bush ahead, some by margins of up to 2-to-1.

Of schools and districts contacted, only the Heidelberg District's online voting program, which had 99 votes cast as of Thursday afternoon, had Kerry over Bush with 55 votes to 43, according to Juanita Harvin, an educational technologist from the district. Third party candidate Ralph Nader received one vote.

Many schools in the district also were holding their own elections with paper ballots, she said.

At Hohenfels Middle/High School, many students didn't care who won, or voted for the candidate their parents backed.

"I voted for Bush, because my parents voted for him," said Kristi Welch, a Hohenfels ninth-grader. "I think he has done a good job as president when you consider all that he was up against

Pupils from Sandy DeLaughter's eighth-grade U.S. history class organized and oversaw the election.

"Kids really have to understand the importance of voting," DeLaughter said.

"If we can get them hooked now, while they are still in school, they won't think of voting as something they should do, but

something they must do. Some of the children, like seventh-grad er Janni Haws, participated in a debate held the morning of the mock election.

"I voted for President Bush," Janni said "He's awesome. He is doing his very best in everything he does for our country



Students pick up their ballots Wednesday for a mock presidential election held at Hohen

ballots Wednesday. Sandy DeLaughter's eighth-grade U.S. history class ran the election,

fels Middle/High School in Germany. Only students who registered to vote could cast their

including seated and from left to right, Thomas Matuskey, Samantha Oberlin, Angela Reinick and Kimberly Howard. When hallots were tallied at Hohenfels

86 percent of the student body had voted, and the students picked Bush, with 61 percent of the votes. In elections held in the Kaiserslautern

District, about 2,200 pupils had voted as of Wednesday. Bush was ahead at that time by a margin of 2-to-1, said Frank Nosal, a Ramstein Elementary School teacher who helped coordinate the district's mock elec-

The district organized election-related events in schools for about two weeks.

One favorite, Nosal said, was having pupils decide whose nose - Kerry's or Bush's - was shown in several photos on a computer screen

"They got to pick the nose," Nosal said. "So that was fun."

A mock election was held at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden on Thursday, At about 1 p.m. Thursday, Bush was leading, despite the number of students registered as Democrats outnumbering registered Republicans more than 3-to-1, according to Jan Meyers, who teaches government at the school

Pupils and teachers at the middle and high schools in Mannheim have been voting in a national online vote sponsored by Youth Leadership Initiative, a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. The stateside organization expects more than 1 million youths to cast votes during a

two-week period.

Pupils at both schools also learned about the process of electing a president, the candidates and the issues. Middle school pupils studied political parties, the funding of elections, election issues and the election process. High school students focused on the complexities of the electoral college and conducted debates

Sue Nehring, the Mannheim Middle School librarian who helped conduct the program, said it has been great for the pupils. She wrote in an e-mail, "They really seem to care about the election. We have stressed that the new president will have a great deal to do with decisions made about their lives, especially since most of the stu-dents have parents in the military." In Gaeta, Italy, Jim Coyle, a social stud-

ies teacher at the Gaeta American School. said that the polling went well for their 180

participants, especially since the voting was done online.

"We thought this was the wave of the future," Coyle said. "People are going to vote online. It worked very smooth."

Covle said that informally, it seemed

that the eighth-graders were equally divided between Bush and Kerry, but the younger pupils leaned toward Bush.

hawn McCarthy, an eighth-grade history teacher at the Stephen Decatur School in Sigonella, Sicily, said about 900 pupils, teachers and parents took part in elections Wednesday and Thursday "[Students are] actually having to think

about an issue and apply it to themselves and prioritize [their decisions]," he said. Whether pupils took the mock elections

seriously or not, it certainly inspired them to think about the candidates.

"It was really interesting, walking through the high school," McCarthy said. "In lieu of normal discussions, you hear echoes of 'who did you vote for' or the individual issues 'no, he's for the war' or 'he's for the death penalty.

Reporters Marni McEntee in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and Jason Chudy in Naples, Italy, contributed to this report.
E-mail Rick Emert at:
--***@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Army E-7 demoted for maltreatment

A noncommissioned officer in Iraq has been demoted for maltreatment of another soldier, then lying about it to investigators, according to a case summary prepared by the Task Force Danger staff judge advocate

At a special court-martial in Tikrit on Oct. 14, Sgt. 1st Class Wallace Boone, 39, of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air De-fense Artillery, pleaded guilty to three counts of maltreatment, one count of making a false statement and one count of using provocative words.

Among the charges against Boone was an incident on

June 5, when Boone brought the soldier into his quarters summary said. at Task Force Danger in Tikrit.

He made the soldier write a letter to his father listing his deficiencies. He also made the soldier add a note at the end saying he had died "because he was not focused on the mission." Then he ordered the soldier to carry the note around with him.

Col. James Pohl, the military judge, recommended the demotion. The sentence now will be reviewed by the court-martial convening authority - in this case, the leadership of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division.

The sentence may be reduced but not increased, the

Meet the Temptations on Saturday

Members of the Temptations singing group will meet the public and sign autographs at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's PowerZone at Mainz-Kastel, Germanv. between 2 and 3 p.m. Saturday.

Five pairs of tickets to the group's concert Saturday night at Phönixhalle in Mainz will be given away.

From staff reports

Were explosives moved before war? $|\frac{\mathrm{Iraq\ to\ ask}}{\mathrm{NATO\ to}}|$

Officer says it's unlikely large-scale removal of explosives occurred after U.S. invasion

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - As Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry hammers President Bush's administration over the disappearance of nearly 400 tons of explosives in Iraq, Pentagon experts are suggesting the ordnance could have been moved before the United States invaded in March 2003

An infantry commander said Wednesday it "very highly improbable" that someone could have trucked out so much material once U.S. forces arrived in the area.

Col. David Perkins commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, the division that led the charge into Baghdad. Those troops first captured the Iraqi weapons depot from which 377 tons of explosives disapneared.

Two major roads that pass near the Al-Oagaa installation were filled with U.S. military traffic in the weeks after April 3, 2003. when U.S. troops first reached the area, the

Perkins and others in the military acknowledged that some looting at the site had taken place. But he said a large-scale operation to remove the explosives using trucks almost certainly would have been detected.

Perkins, now a staff officer at the Pentagon, was made available to reporters by Defense Department spokesmen.

Just days before the Nov 2 U.S. election

the Kerry campaign has pointed to the missing explosives as evidence of the Bush administration's noor handling of the war Rush officials have responded that more than a thousand times that amount of explosives and munitions in Iraq have been recovered or destroyed.

Mike McCurry, an adviser to Kerry, said, "From some of the Pentagon reporting today, there is a window that's available there where either just prior to or just after the invasion there could have been an opportunity for either Saddam to move the weapons or for something happening after that facility had been

"And that is up to the administration to best determine how to answer that question when that happened. But they don't have an answer, and that's what we're asking for," McCurry said

Larry Di Rita, the Pentagon's top spokesman, said what ultimately happened to the explosives is unknown. The department is investigating. But Perkins' description seemed to point toward the possibility that the explosives were removed before the U.S.-led invasion to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. rather than during the chaos afterward.

The colonel did not directly offer that con-

Meanwhile, The Washington Times report-Thursday that Russian special forces troops moved many of Saddam's weapons and related goods out of Iraq and into Syria in the weeks before the March 2003 military opera-Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Vy-

acheslav Sedov dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and "ridiculous." "I can state officially that the Russian De-

fense Ministry and its structures couldn't have been involved in the disappearance of the explosives, because all Russian military experts left Iraq when the international sanc tions were introduced during the 1991 Gulf War," he said.

John A. Shaw, the U.S. deputy undersecretary of defense for international technology security, told The Times in an interview that he believes the Russian troops, working with Iraqi intelligence, "almost certainly" re-moved the high-explosive material.

"The Russians brought in, just before the war got started, a whole series of military Shaw was quoted as saying. "Their main job was to shred all evidence of any of the contractual arrangements they had with the Iraqis. The others were transportation

Shaw, who was in charge of cataloging the tons of conventional arms provided to Iraq by foreign suppliers, said he recently obtained reliable information on the arms-dispersal program from two European intelligence services that have detailed knowledge of the Russian-Iraqi weapons collaboration

Most of Saddam's most powerful arms were systematically separated from other arms like mortars, bombs and rockets, and sent to Syria and Lebanon, and possibly to Iran, he said

help equip its forces

By CHARLIE COON Stare and Strings

MONS, Belgium - NATO countries are being asked to help equip Iraq's new soldiers and security officers once the fledgling government figures out what it will need to combat insur-

Marine Gen. James L. Jones, supreme allied commander in Europe, said Thursday that nations are being asked to contribute small arms, light-armored vehicles, rifles, grenades, vehicles and basic aircraft.

"We're still in the initial stag-" he said.

"We'll [coordinate contribu-

both NATO and non-NATO members,' Jones said "Anybody who wishes to contribute equipment."

Jones. speaking



Supreme Headquar ters Allied Powers, Europe, said the Iraqi government would ask for the specific assets it felt it needed to defeat the insurgents. So far, those insurgents have killed hundreds of Iraqi men who signed up, or

tried to sign up, to become sol-diers or police officers in the new government. Once the government requests the weapons and equipment it needs, NATO will try to arrange

the transaction. The initial outfitting of the Iraqi army and police would likely consist of "basic war-fighting equipment," Jones said. After the country gets back on its feet eco-nomically, NATO could then help coordinate sales and contributions to rebuild Iraq's decimated air force and navy

Jones said that NATO was concentrating on collecting weaponry used by former Soviet bloc countries, which was similar to the weapons used by Irag's army under former President Saddam

"We are trying to give them the type of equipment they are most familiar with, because that obvi-

ously saves time," Jones said.
"We are consulting with any
number of nations that has that equipment. As we get into NATO [military] transformation, we believe we will have excess equipment, excess bases, excess manpower. And if we can get that excess equipment, and if we can somehow get it to the Iraqis, this will be good." Jones said.

The way that the equipment will be collected, paid for and distributed, and the time line for arming Iraq's soldiers and police, is still being worked out. Jones

coonc@mail.estrines.osd.mil

Experts troubled over missing weapons

Some worried other arms caches will fall into the hands of enemies

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - Revelations that nearly 400 tons of conventional explosives have gone missing in Iraq have experts won dering what other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.

Even the U.S. State Department concedes it can't provide "100 percent security for 100 per-cent of the sites." By all accounts, Iraq is studded with weapons demany in places where U.S.-led forces are preoccupied with their fiercest fighting.

Troubling questions about what other weapons might be vulnerable to looting have arisen since the U.N. nuclear agency's warning this week that 377 U.S. tons of non-nuclear explosives disappeared from the former Al-Qaqaa military installation south of Baghdad 'You'd think that those sites

would be the highest priority for guarding in the immediate after-math of the invasion," said Shannon Kyle, senior researcher on nuclear arms control and nonproliferation at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden The explosives missing from

Al-Qaqaa alone could produce hundreds of thousands of bombs - more than enough to "fuel an insurgency literally for years, Kyle said Tuesday. International Atomic Energy

Agency chief Mohamed ElBara dei reported their disappearance to the U.N. Security Council on Monday two weeks after he said Iraq told his agency that the explosives had vanished as a result of "theft and looting ... due to lack of security.

The explosives included HMX and RDX, key components in plas-tic explosives, which insurgents in Iraq have used to deadly effect in months of bloody car bomb attacks on the U.S.-led multination-

The explosives missing from Al-Qaqaa alone could "fuel an insuraencu literally for uears," said Shannon Kule, a senior researcher on nuclear arms control.

Among Irag's known weapons depots is one near Khaldiya, about 50 miles west of the capital, where a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy on Monday, destroying at least two Humvees. have been identified around Tikrit and in the desert near Karbala - places where U.S.-led forces have battled insurgents and been targeted by car

Last week, a U.S. patrol discovered a huge weapons cache at a large depot near Salman Pak, south of Baghdad. The cache included 450 anti-tank mines, 300 grenades, 35 rocket-propelled grenades, as well as mortar shells

Richard Guthrie, project leader for the Stockholm institute's chemical and biological warfare project, said he doubts a single group of insurgents could have obtained the missing explosives.

"If this is in terrorist hands then it's sort of a surprise that there aren't more large-scale bombings taking place, Guthrie, who believes it is more likely the explosives were carried off by dozens of different looters in the post-invasion chaos The Pentagon said U.S.-led forc-

es who searched the Al-Oagaa facility after last year's invasion found some explosive material, but none of it carried IAEA seals The nuclear agency's inspectors had sealed storage bunkers shortly before the war because HMX is a "dual use" explosive that also can be used as an ignitor on a nuclear bomb.

"Our greatest concern from both a proliferation standpoint and from a standpoint of danger to human beings was Al-Qagaa IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said.

Weapons experts are questioning why Al-Qaqaa — once a key facility in Saddam Hussein's effort to build a nuclear bomb - wasn't under 24-hour guard.

The facility was considered "the pre-eminent site for high ex-

Weapons at risk

The disappearance of 377 tons of explosives have experts worrying that other weapons might be in jeopardy of falling into insurgent or terrorist hands.



plosive stockpiles," a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

"What is most disturbing is I

can remember talking about these same evolosives after the fall of Baghdad, basically asking the question, 'Are these explosives protected?' "said David Albright, a former chief U.N. nuclear inspector who now runs the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security.

Fleming said the Iraqis have not reported any other missing materials to the IAEA, but that the agency's chief Iraq inspector, Jacques Baute, "would encourage more such reporting on what has happened to sites subject to IAEA verification

Associated Press writer Mattias Kare contributed to this story from Stock-

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Militants abduct, kill 11 Iraqi soldiers

BY MARIAM FAM The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents slaughtered 11 Iraqi soldiers, warning on an Islamic militant Web site Thursday that the fighters will avenge "the blood" of women and children killed in American strikes on the guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah.

The wave of foreigner kidnappings claimed another victim—a Polish woman said to be married to an Iraqi. The kidnappers demanded that Poland withdraw its 2,400 soldiers and that the coalition free all Iraqi women held in the Abu Ghraib prison.

CARE International, meanwhile, amounced it was shutting down operations in Iraq, as demanded by kidnappers of the organization's director for Iraq, Margaret Hassan.

Elsewhere, two more American soldiers were killed — one in a car bombing in southern Baghdad and the other in an ambush near Balad, 40 miles north of the capital.

In Tokyo, Japanese authorities said they had failed to enlist the help of a prominent Iraqi cleric in trying to free Japanese hostage

Polish woman taken hostage

Shosei Koda who was shown in a video aired Tuesday.

An al-Qaida affiliate led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to behead Koda in 48 hours unless Japan withdraws its troops from Iraq — a demand rejected by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The killing of the 11 Iraqi National Guardsmen was claimed by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, which posted a videotape of their brutal deaths on its Web site along with a warning for all Iraqi police and soldiers to desert or face death. The militants said earlier that the soldiers were abducted this week on the main road between. Baghdad and Hillah, 60 miles to the source of the soldiers were also unless to the source of the soldiers were also unless to the source of the soldiers were also miles to the source of the soldiers were also miles to the source of the soldiers were also miles to the source of the soldiers were also when the source of the soldiers were also miles to the source of the soldiers were also were also soldiers and the soldiers were also were also soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers are soldiers are soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are soldiers are soldiers are soldiers are soldiers and the soldiers are sold

Miles to the south.

After forcing each of the soldiers to state his name and his unit, the militants forced one of them to the ground and sawed off his head. The others were forced to kneel with their hands bound as a gumnan fired shots into the back of each of their heads.

A voice on the videotape warned all Iraqi soldiers and police to "repent to God, abandon

your weapons, go home and beware of supporting the apostate Crusaders or their followers, the Iraqi government, or else you will only find death."

U.S. and Iraqi forces are gearing up for a possible assault on Fallujah and other militant strongholds west of Baghdad if community leaders do not hand over foreign fighters and extremists, including al-Zarqawi and his follow-

On Thursday, U.S. aircraft bombed a suspected insurgent safe house in Fallujah, killing two people, hospital officials said.

Insurgents also clashed with U.S. forces in Ramadi, 25 miles west of Fallujah and another militant stronghold. Two people were killed and four wounded, hospital officials said.

The Polish woman was the ninth foreign woman abducted in Iraq since a wave of kidnappings began last spring.

The kidnappers, who called themselves the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades, said the woman, who was not identified by name, was a Polish citi-



U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment prepare to enter a home during a raid in Ramadi, Iraq, on Thursday.

zen working with U.S. troops in Iraq. The militants demanded that Poland withdraw its troops from Iraq, as well as the release of all Iraqi female prisoners. Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said the Polish government would not submit to the kidnap-

ki said the Polish government would not submit to the kidnappers' demands. Also Thursday, a separate armed group calling itself Al-Islam's Army Brigades, Al-Karar Brigade, said it obtained a "huge amount of the explosives" that are missing from the Al-Qaqaa weapons installation south of Baghdad.

It threatened to use the weapons if U.S. and Iraqi forces attack insurgent strongholds in central Iraq. The claim couldn't be independently verified and the tape offered no evidence that the claim was genuine.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,109 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 846 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, Elalvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 971 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 737 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday when a motorcycle bomber attacked a U.S. convoy in central

The latest identification reported by the military:

Marine Cpl. Brian Oliveira, 22, Raynham, Mass.; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



IN THE WORLD

Uncertainty surrounds EU Constitution signing

Referendums in 9 nations could put ratification in jeopardy

BY ROBERT WIELAARD

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — In ancient Rome, traitors were tossed off the city's Capitoline Hill. It is on that very site that 25 European leaders plan to sign the EU constitution on Friday — and they can only hope the document isn't destined for a similar, ignominious fate.

your guide to winter sports...

The charter is supposed to take effect in 2007, but uncertainty hangs over the EU's future shape amid doubts that Europeans are prepared to accept closer integration.

The challenges facing a united Europe were underscored in dramatic fashion Wednesday, when incoming EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso withdrew his entire team for a vote be-

every thursday in stripes travel

fore the European Parliament as it became clear that the proposed commission was heading for a humiliating rejection.

To take effect, the constitution must be ratified by the legislatures of all EU states in 2005 and 2006. It's a tricky prospect, given that at least nine countries — Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Czech Republic and Britain — plan to put the constitution to a referendum.

A single 'no' would stop the EU constitution in its tracks.

The charter lacks the sweep and grandeur that Euro-idealists had hoped for, and falls short of setting up the massive superstate Euro-skeptics feared. But in allowing for an EU president and foreign minister and offering a series of mechanisms for streamining decision-making, it amounts to a key step forward — after the recent monetary union — toward integration.

European leaders approved the charter last June, after 28 months of difficult, often acrimonious negotiations. Its principal aim is to provide simpler voting rules to end decision gridlock in a club



Incoming European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, right, waits before addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday. Barroso withdrew his proposed 24-member executive team from consideration by the European Parliament on Wednesday, realizing he faced an unprecedented rejection.

that ballooned to 25 members this year and plans to absorb half a dozen more in the years ahead.

The constitution will be signed Friday in the same room — the Sala Degli Orazi e Curiazi — of a Renaissance palazzo where the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg signed the EU's founding Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957.

In the long term, the leaders' key challenge will be to explain the merit of ever more European integration to an increasingly skeptical European public. Last June's European Parliament elections were a shocker: They revealed a streak of Euro-skepticism even in economically-struggling countries that joined May 1 and had experienced decades of communist rule. Euro-skeptic candidates all did well in Lithuania, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Poland.

The constitution simplifies complex decision-making by requiring that, starting in 2009, measures can only be adopted if at least 15 countries representing at least 65 percent of the EU's 455 million population agree.

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Rome enacts massive security measures before EU ceremony

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO
The Associated Press

ROME — Roman landmarks including the Colosseum and the Roman Forum will be closed, streets will be blocked off to traffic and thousands of police will be on patrol Friday as part of massive security measures for the signing of the European Union's proposed constitution.

The ceremony takes place on the Capitoline Hill in the heart of Rome. Hundreds of dignitaries were expected in the city, including heads of state and government of the bloc's 25 member states and four candidate states. The city's center was already

under tight security on Thursday.
Trash bins were removed in and
around the area and manholes
were welded shut. Some streets
were sealed off to private vehicles,
while parking was not allowed in
many streets and piazzas.

Hundreds of policemen were patrolling tourist attractions. Already closed to the public was the Vittoriano museum near Piazza Venezia, currently hosting a Degas exhibit, and the Bocca della Verita, the marble disc representing a human face with an open mouth that, as legend has it, chops off the hands of liars.

The Roman Forum was expected to close later Thursday and the Colosseum will shut its doors Friday, city officials said.

In total, about 5,000 police and paramilitary Carabinieri forces will be employed to protect the VIPs, news reports said. Air travel also will be affected.

Air travel also will be affected. The Ciampino Airport, which usually serves many low-cost companies, will be shut down until Saturday. At Rome's main Leonardo Da Vinci airport traffic is expected to be reduced by at least 20 percent on Friday, while the airspace over Rome will be closed to private aircraft.

The Circus Maximus will be turned into a landing space for helicopters carrying the dignitaries, according to Rome newspaper Il Messaggero.

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IN THE STATES

Bush, Kerry race to win Midwestern states

BY CALVIN WOODWARD AND MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio - In a stinging exchange, President Bush criti cized Democratic challenger John Kerry as "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time" on Thursday while the Mas sachusetts senator accused his rival of constantly ducking re-sponsibility for his own actions.

For the fourth consecutive day, Kerry assailed Bush over the disclosure that nearly 400 tons of explosives were missing in Iraq, and said the Republican president's attempt to compare him-self to John F. Kennedy was off the mark.

"When the Bay of Pigs went sour, John Kennedy had the courage to look America in the eye and say, 'I take responsibility, it's my fault,' " Kerry said, referring to a bungled invasion of Cuba in 1961. "John Kennedy knew how to take responsibility for the mis-takes he made and Mr. President. it's long since time for you to start taking responsibility for the mistakes you made.

The two men raced from one Midwestern state to another in the closing days of their close, contentious campaign for the White House. The polls, ubiquitous as they were, were of little use in forecasting the outcome of the election. Over and over, they made the race out to be a statistical tie, and battleground states too close to call.

Bush began his day in Saginaw Mich., with an unstinting attack on Kerry

"A president cannot blow in the

wind," he said of Kerry. "Senator Kerry has taken a lot





Left: President Bush stops to shake hands with supporters after speaking at a campaign rally at the Dow Event Center on Thursday in Saginaw, Mich. In his speech, Bush told the audience Sen. Kerry is "the wrong man for the wrong job at the wrong time. Right: Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., shakes hands and talks to members of the crowd after speaking at a rally at the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio, on Thursday morning. At the rally, Kerry accused Bush of ducking responsibility for his own actions.

of different positions but he's rarely taken a stand," Bush said. 'Consistency is not the senator's strong suit.

Kerry campaigned first in Ohio, arguably the key to victory

A Red Sox cap perched on his head, he recalled that last year when his campaign was struggling, a caller to a radio program said, "John Kerry won't be presi-dent until the Red Sox win the World Series

"Well, we're on our way," he said to cheers.

Bush had his own World Series tie-in. Interviewed on ABC, Boston pitcher Curt Schilling urged viewers to vote for the president.

Kerry's crowd was rancous so noisy that at one point he said, "I hope George Bush can hear that that is the rumble of change comin' at him.

Kerry has turned the issue of missing explosives into a major focus of his campaign this week, and his running mate joined in.

"They had a responsibility to secure this material." Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina said on NBC's "Today" on Thursday. "It was important for securing Iraq, it was important for the safety of our troops, it was important for keeping that material out of the hands of terrorists. And what we know is, they didn't do it.

Bush sought to turn the contro-

versy to his own advantage. He said his rival was showing a "complete disregard for the facts. Senator Kerry will say anything to get elected," the president said.

Bush's campaign surrogates rallied to his defense

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, said the troops in Iraq, not the president, bore the responsibility for searching for the explosives, and he said no one knows if any mistakes were

"John Kerry wants to pretend we do know what happened, Giuliani told "Today." "We don't know what happened. The best possibility is that those explosives were gone even before the troops got there ... at least it's an equal possibility. John Kerry hasn't admitted that, Instead, John Kerry became an attack dog."

Bush was stumping in Michinia-Ohio-Michigan

gan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the reverse order of a Pennsylvaswing Wednesday that was capped by an early evening crowd of close to

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20,000 at the Pontiac, Mich. Silverdome, one of the best turnouts of his campaign. Kerry was focusing on Ohio and Wisconsin before swinging south to spend Friday in

Kerry was keeping up his drumheat of criticism over the circumstances surrounding the explosives in Iraq.

"The missing explosives could very likely be in the hands of terrorists and insurgents, who are actually attacking our forces now 80 times a day on average," he said in Iowa on Wednesday

The president struck back by saying the senator simply did not know what happened there.

"A political candidate who iumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief," Bush told supporters Wednesday.

Kerry retorted on Thursday, 'Mr. President, I agree with

He then recited a list of times he said Bush had been guilty of

Polls suggest Bush and Kerry are running even not only in Iowa and Michigan, but in an improbable variety of other battleground states and nationally as well. Bush pressed hard for crossover

"If you're a Democrat, and your dreams and goals are not found in the far left wing of the Democrat party, I'd be honored to have your vote," he said at several appearances.Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday night in Wisconsin that the terrorists and insurgents "know once those elections are held, they're out of business. They've said as much" in "communications that we've captured between Zarqawi and the bin Laden crowd." Cheney was referring to terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zargawi

Associated Press writers Tom Raum in Pontiac, Mich., and Mike Glover in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, contributed to this report.



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Floridians told absentee ballots in mail

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -With voters jamming phone lines saying they haven't received absentee ballots in the mail, elections officials planned to mail out

thousands of replacement ballots. As election workers and the U.S. Postal Service traded the Wednesday, Broward blame County elections supervisor Brenda Snines moved to solve the nroblem with less than a week left before the presidential election by sending duplicates to people who had not returned the original bal-

Attention focused on a batch of 58,000 Broward ballots given to the Postal Service on Oct. 7-8. Though some voters have commailed those days, hundreds of others have called to complain their forms have not arrived. It was unclear how many absentee ballots were affected.

"This isn't a blame game" Snipes told The Miami Herald.

"What we're concentrating on is getting the ballots to the voter She was named to the job by Gov. Jeh Rush after the 2000 elections supervisor quit during the bitter presidential vote recount and her replacement was suspended for

Snipes estimated she would resend no more than 20,000 ballots, but about 76,000 ballots sent by

her office have not been returned Overnight mail was to be used ing outside the county, such as college students

Because of the volume of calls. Broward County commissioners assigned 40 new workers to phone duty at the election office and early voting sites, where voters have been routinely waiting in line up to two hours to reach touch-screen voting machines.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said it investigated the questions about the Oct.
7-8 mailings and found no criminal violations. Enola C. Rice, a Postal Service spokeswoman in South Florida, said absentee ballots are handled separately from other mail and are processed and delivered immediately

ballots can always vote early or

on Election Day, officials said. If a voter who asked for a ballot shows up at the polls, the absentee form is flagged so only one vote counts.

In Palm Beach County, Democratic lawmakers Wednesday called on elections supervisor Theresa LePore to take out newspaper ads informing voters of their options if they do not receive an absentee ballot. U.S. Reps. Robert Wexler and Alcee Hastings, along with state Sen. Ron Klein and Mayor Lois Frankel, said they have been inundated with calls from voters who are confused about the process or who have not received their ab-

They said the ads should tell oters that they can vote early at polling places across the county.

LePore's office has received a record number of requests for absentee hallots and had mailed more than 128,000 ballots by early this week. She said an additional 7,000 go out each day.

"I have no control over the post office," LePore said.

Tony Fransetta, president of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, said the delays could put thousands of seniors' votes in

jeopardy. Many older Americans rely on absentee ballots because are disabled or unable to drive to the nolls he said



Mary Sullivan sits in her new home, where she is a live-in home care provider, in Bexley, Ohio. Sullivan was homeless when she registered to vote and her registration is now being challenged by Ohio Republicans.

Federal judge halts GOP's challenge to new Ohio voters

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS Obio - One voter picks up letters at the post office because trucks kept hitting his mailbox. Another serves in Iraq. Hundreds more are homeless, listing shelters as permanent addresses.

All are among the 35,000 whose eligibility has been challenged by the Ohio Republican Party. Since mail came back undelivered, the GOP says, those registrations could be fraudulent. Democrats say the GOP is trying to keep poor and minorities, who move more often, from voting

A federal judge put a temporarily halt to the challenges Wednesday, ruling in favor of Democrats who said the GOP was targeting new voters registered by political groups supporting Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic challenger to President Bush IIS District Judge Susan Dlott ruled that six county elections boards should hearings scheduled this week in Ohio, a hotly contested state in the presidential election.

In southwest Ohio, Republicans challenged the registration of Surjo Banerjee, a fact his brother found unusual. Banerjee, 40, is an Army sergeant who is now in Falluiah, Iraq.

Banerjee, also a veteran of the first Gulf War, uses his brother's house in Centerville as a permanent address even though he has lived around the world said his brother, Dr. Partha Banerjee.

"He would laugh it off." Banerjee said. "He would say, 'I never get picked for anything nice why can't they give me a car or something?"

Republicans withdrew all 2 319 challenges in Montgomery County, including the one against Banerjee, after acknowledging several mistakes in its mailing.

In suburban Franklin County, the registration of Raven Shaffer was wrongly challenged because he gets mail at a post office box according to the federal lawsuit filed Tuesday by Democrats. The "family's mailbox has been repeatedly hit by delivery trucks,"

the lawsuit said Also in Franklin County, 291 homeless people are being ques-tioned out of the 2.370 total challenges, according to an analysis of the challenges by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. In Cuvahoga County, 757 people of the 17,717 total being

challenged are homeless. Mary Sullivan, 57, looked for work for a year after losing her job as a receptionist and prescription filler for a local drug maker in August 2003. She was evicted from her apartment after her money ran out this past June and spent two months at Friends of the Homeless, a shelter on Columbus' east side. "My vote has to be counted," Sullivan said. "Just because you're homeless doesn't mean you're stupid."

Early ballots becoming popular with Ū.Š. voters

BY NANCY BENAC The Associated Press

WASHNGTON - Americans are casting early ballots in droves this year, and their reasons are as varied as their politics: Some can't wait to register their opinions. Some like the convenience.

Some just want to be left alone. In New Jersey's Somerset County, elections administrator Janice Hoffman says she's seeing more people make the extra effort to personally walk their bal-

"No dangling chads on mine!" a satisfied Barry Burke pronounced after voting electronically this week in Little Rock, Ark.

Whatever the voters' motivations, Democrats and Republicans alike are tracking their balloting day by day and county by county, hoping to turn the early voting trend to their advantage.

'There's a basic rule here: More is better," said Charlie Baker, captain of the Democrats' early vote operation. "We are see-ing in a number of states, significantly higher vote-by-mail and early voting numbers than historically has been the case and that has to be a good thing for the Democrats."

Republicans, for their part, claim their four-year-long early vote operation has been more effective at targeting sympathetic voters who might be less likely to turn out on Election Day. "What you're often seeing with the Democrats is simply the substitution of an absentee or early vote for an Election Day vote," said Bush campaign manager Ken Mehl-

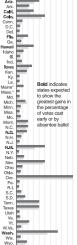
With 32 states now offering some form of early voting, an AP-Insos poll taken last weekend found 11 percent of voters across the United States already had cast ballots, and another 11 percent intended to beat the Election Day rush as well. Early voting is

ELECTION 2004 Getting out the vote

This year, more voters are expected to cast their ballots early or use absentee forms than in the 2000 presidential election.

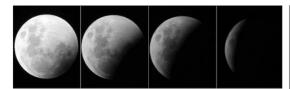
Percentage of each state's

votes cast early or absentee AP's 2004 2000 60 80 100% Alaska Ariz.



* 2000 percentage not available for Maine and Massachusetts; all voting is done by and Massachus mail in Oregon

particularly popular in the West, with half or more of all votes like ly to be cast early in states such as Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington.



The moon, seen in four different photographs, is partially covered by the Earth's shadow during Wednesday's lunar eclipse in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The four photographs where taken (from left) at 10:21 p.m. 10:30 p.m., 10:56 p.m. and 11:28 p.m., Buenos Aires time. The next such eclipse will be in March 2007.

Earthlings savor eclipse

BY SARAH BRUMFIELD The Associated Press

BALTIMORE - The Earth's last total lunar eclipse for nearly two and a half years didn't disap-

Baltimore resident Davis Sherman visited the Maryland Science Center with his 15-year-old son for the event, which began Wednesday about 9:15 p.m. EDT and was expected to last around three hours and 20 minutes.
"It's a spectacular show," Sher-

man said Tony and Carline Cazeau of Co-

lumbia brought their two daughters, Gabrielle, 12, and Valerie, 8, to the science center for the educational experience.

"It looks like chocolate," Valerie said.

With the Earth passing directly between the sun and the moon, the only light hitting the full moon was from the planet's sunrises and sunsets, resulting in an orange and red hue. Visitors at the science center's Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory peeked at the moon through its telescope.

Jim O'Leary, senior director of technology, IMAX, at the Science Center's Davis Planetarium, said there are usually two or three lunar eclipses a year, but there won't be any in 2005 or 2006.

"This one is a particularly long one" he said

Outside the science center, Baltimore Astronomical Society President Darryl Mason projected the images from a powerful telescope

onto a screen for passers-by to see. He said he hopes the eclipse helps introduce more young people to astronomy

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, total lunar eclipses give sci entists a chance to assess the qual-ity of Earth's atmosphere. Ash from volcanic eruptions, for example, can make an eclipsed moon look much darker. The recent eruptions of Mount St. Helens in Washington were not expected to affect the eclipse because they consisted of far more steam than ash

The last total lunar eclipse was May 4, but it wasn't visible from

North America, NASA said. The next total eclipse of the moon will not be until March

Dwarf woman's skeleton could alter history of human evolution

By JOSEPH B VERRENGIA The Associated Press

In an astonishing discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution, scientists say they have found the skeleton of a new human species, a dwarf, marooned for eons in a tropical Lost World while modern man rapidly colonized the rest of the planet.

The finding on a remote Indone sian island has stunned anthropologists like no other in recent mem ory. It is a fundamentally new creature that bears more of a resemblance to fictional, barefooted hobbits than modern humans.

Yet biologically speaking, it may have been closely related to us and perhaps even shared its caves with our ancestors.

The 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton found in a cave is believed 18,000 years old. It smashes the long-cherished scientific belief that our species, Homo sapiens, systematically crowded out other upright-walking human cousins beginning 160,000 years ago and that we've had Earth to ourselves for tens of thousands of years.

Instead, it suggests recent evolution was more complex than previously thought.

And it demonstrates that Africa, the acknowledged cradle of humanity, does not hold all the answers to persistent questions of how - and where - we came to be



Professor Richard Roberts points Thursday to an artist impression of a hobbit-like dwarf, a discovery that could rewrite the history of human evolution in Sydney, Australia. A 3-foot-tall adult female skeleton, found on a remote Indonesian island, is believed 18,000 years old.

"This finding really does rewrite our knowledge of human evolution," said Chris Stringer, who directs human origins studies at the Natural History Museum in London. "And to have them nresent less than 20,000 years ago is frankly astonishing.

Scientists called the dwarf skeleton "the most extreme" figure to be included in the extended human family. Certainly, she is the shortest

She is the best example of a trove of fragmented bones that account for as many as seven of

these primitive individuals that lived on the equatorial island of Flores, located east of Java and northwest of Australia. The most ly intact female skeleton was found in September 2003

Scientists have named the extinct species Homo floresiensis or Flores Man, and details appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

The specimens' ages range from 95,000 to 12,000 years old, meaning they lived until the threshold of recorded human history and perhaps crossed paths with the ancestors of today's is-

Louisville Slugger Museum auctioning Hall of Famers' bats, artifacts of baseball

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George H. "Babe" Ruth

shown in this undated photo,

BY CHRIS DUNCAN The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - The Louisville Slugger Museum is having a rummage sale.

A Hall of Fame-caliber collection of bats, balls, photos and other items will be up for bidding at a public auction at the museum Nov. 6. Many of the items were dredged from a warehouse and file cabinets in the basement of the Hillerich & Bradsby Co.'s downtown museum and factory, where the trademark bats are manufacstill

tured. Buch. "It's monumentally significant," said David Hunt, president Hunt Auctions the firm selected Louisville Slugger to orga-

nize the event. "It's not just the desirability of the items or the rarity, but for them to come straight from H&B's archives, that makes the A handwritten letter by

collection almost unequaled." Marquee items is one is one of the items to

include Louis-ville Sluggers Louisville Slugger Museum in handled by "Sho- Kentucky. The letter, dated eless" Joe Jack- July 9, 1918, was sent to son, Ty Cobb, Frank Bradsby of the Jim Thorpe and Louisville Slugger company Babe Ruth. The and includes six genuine Ruth collection also in-cludes a ball signed by both Ruth and Lou Ge-

hrig, a Cleveland Indians jersey worn by Satchel Paige and a letter handwritten by Ruth with six of his signatures at the bot-

"There are things so unique in this auction that have never been publicly sold," said David Bushing, a bat expert and authenticator. "It's going to be quite an event for collectors "

The proceeds from the auc-tion will create a fund the museum will use to obtain other base ball artifacts, said Anne Jewell, the museum's executive director. The museum's wish list includes a complete set of bats from every slugger in the 500-home run club.

"It just makes sense for us to trade things, like you do base-ball cards," Jewell said. "In a trade, if there's something vou're lacking, you look at what you've got that someone else might be interested in and that helps you acquire new things.

"We look at our collection and we know there are some holes in it. We need to stay fresh and vital.

The Jackson bat figures to be the auction's highlight. Cracked on the handle and worn on the

barrel, the bat has Jackson's sig-nature along the hitting area in bold ink. Bushing said the item will likely draw a price "deep in the six figures."

The bat was acquired from the estate of Syd Smith, a Jackson teammate and close friend Bushing said there's no proof Jackson actually used the bat, but it is the only known one autographed by the enigmatic Jackson, who batted .356 from 1908 to 1920. Although acquitted by a jury on charges he helped fix

> Series, Jackson was banned from baseball in 1921 by commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis and never made the Hall of Fame. "I don't know if

the Jackson bat is

the star of the show, but it's defi-

the 1919 World

nitely going to be in the top five, Bushing "The fact that it could've been HUNT AUCTIONS/AP used by Joe Jack-son adds to the mystique. there was proof it was Joe Jackson's game bat one that he used in games - with his autograph on

> about millions of dollars." The bat still has a ring of black handle tape, ball marks on the barrel and two small cob-

it, we'd be talking

bler's nails hammered into the end Thorpe believed the nails would strengthen the bat and had them inserted at a shoe

store in Ohio Thorpe was stripped of the two gold medals he won at the 1912 Olympics because he had signed a semi-pro contract before the games. He signed with the New York Giants in 1913 and played in the majors for six seasons. The bat dates to be-

The gem of the museum's contributions is a bat used by Cobb, circa 1911-15, with grease-pencil markings made on the side. The markings were not made by Cobb, but by Henry Morrow, Hillerich & Bradsby's receiving agent in Cobb's era

tween 1917 and 1920.

When a player returned a bat to the factory, Morrow wrote the date, the player's name and the city or team where the bat originated. Bushing said the markings increase the bat's value, which he guessed at between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

"Side-writing in the world of bat collecting is as good as a letter of authenticity," Bushing said.

STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher THOMAS BIERMANN, General Manager, Europe LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHA, Commander

News and Editorial

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Olson, News Peter Photokibo, Photokiboraphics

Rrian Rowers Features Span Monroe Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim.

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

FAX. DSI 369-8416; civ. (1-49) (IO 515-5001415; -BMILL News: newsglomal estripses and mill Letters: netters@mail estripses and mill SENTRAL OFFICE 2529 14th Shared NV. Sotha 350, Washington DC 761-7000; Fax (1-1) (2027) 771-7809 (IO 510) 771-781-781 (IO 510) 771-781 (

(202) 761-0945. szzarellad@stripes.osd.mil OMBUDSNAM: Joe Ungaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, Stan and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6032; fa: (+1) (401) 364-8596;

How to call us

Editor: DSN 349-8237. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Latters: DSN 349-8400. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601203 Sports: DSN 349-8400. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601405 Sports: DSN 349-8225. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8437. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-835/4425, civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601333/443.

News Bureaus

NEWS BUIEBAUS
GERMANY (country code + 49)
Bambarg: Rick Ement. 279th BS8, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE
09139-7535; Inl. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN
469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/300-8007;

4e3-80U of Cir. (II) 951/30U-80U7; e-mail: emeric@mail.estripes.cod.mil 8Baumholder: Terry Boyd. 222nd SSB, APO AE 09034; tel. DSN 485-6089, or civ. (II) 6783-90076; e-mail: boydfi@mail.estripes.cod.mil Darnstadt: Newin Douberty. Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (I) 6155-601406;

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Uni 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0 6155-601326, e-mail: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Jessi-ca litigo, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8290 or civ. (0) 6155-601290, e-mail: inigoi@mail.estripes.osd.mil and Lisa Horn, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8237 or

and Last Ness, July 2008, #FAR 64, 00211, for 100 319-5237 or or (0. 1515-01221)—and hortilipmal elegency and in \$100,000 110,000 110,000 110,000 110,000 110,000 110,000 \$101.51 heddings, for 100,319-70 for or, 01 0221,00050 \$102.51 heddings, for 100,319-70 for or, 01 03,719-70 for or, 01 03,719-70 for or, 01 11,779-70 for or, 01 11

tax cv. (II) US1-1/US172, e-mail: newers(c)mail.estripscs.osd.mil Avianon/Visenza: Kent Harris, Itb. LSN (314) 632-7652 or civ. (39) 0434-66-7652; second line DSN (314) 632-7652 or civ. (39) 0434-66-64222, e-mail: harrisk@mail.estripsc.osd.mil Apples: Jason Chuly, PSC 810, Ber S6, FPO Ac 09619, tel. DSN 626-5157 or civ. (+39) (081) 568-5159, e-mail:

udvi@mail.estripes.osd.i

RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jer

ore. 00367-01-1399/4; e-mail: bosnia@mail.estripes.osd.mil UNITED XINGDOM IF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall, APO AE (0459; tal. DSN 238-4888 or civ. (+44) (0) 1538/544868; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013; e-mail: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

mail.estripes.osd.mil WASHINGTON D.C. Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Wash ington DC 20045-1301: tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859:

a-mail: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil Sandra Jontz and Lisa Burgess, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+1) (703) 695-4792; fax civ. (+1) (703) 693-6366;

) (703) 633-6366; ail: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil; burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

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CIB for infantry only

In regard to the letter "Support soldiers get the shaft" (Oct. 23). I and many others have problems with them receiving a Combat Infantry Badge or any combat badges of that nature. I have done many operations in Iraq while in a line company or line platoon, and to read that letter is appalling.

The reason I say this is because in Iraq, an infantryman's day is at least 14 hours of work — and that is an easy day. Most of the time you are out in sector for 15 hours and on your forward operating base doing three hours of other work. We eat out of mermites or feed on Meals, Ready to Eat, and every now and then go to a non-infantryman's forward base and eat at a great dining facility.

Also, when the writer got shot at on one convoy, what does he think happens to us on raids, patrols, at observation points or any time we go to cities that are hot spots? And back in the garrison, it is common to go to the field at least four months a year, running stick lanes, pulling guard, sleep ing on the ground in rain, snow, etc., and

marching - and the list goes on. So I think it is just fine that we get a badge and support does not. Would the reader like, perhaps, that the Army have a Combat Cook's Badge with a spoon and a wreath around it? I doubt that badge will

come up any time soon (hopefully). I hope all understand my feeling and I really hope this letter gets printed.

Pfc. Isaiic T. Healy Forward Operating Base Omaha, Iraq

Badge reserved for warriors

The writer of the Oct. 23 letter "Support soldiers get the shaft" said that all military occupational specialties received "the same training before we hit country, we're told underneath it all, we are all infantry, when need be, even female soldiers Where did he go to training? I went to Fort Knox, Ky., and I was never told I was in fantry "underneath it all.

There is a very good reason infantry-men are the only soldiers who can receive a blue cord and Combat Infantry Badge: They earned it. Few support personnel get the "joy" of riding in the back of a Bradley fighting vehicle for eight hours in 120-de gree heat. These men volunteer to put themselves in harm's way; they are not forced into harm's way, as happens to a support soldier

How many support personnel patrol the sector, man checkpoints, execute raids, escort convovs and lead combat operation? Some, but not many. Infantrymen in this theater perform their duties, plus those of combat engineers, explosive ordnance disposal and military police.

Why do infantrymen and medics have their own badges? Has the writer ever had to perform lifesaving measures on someone while receiving small-arms and mortar fire, or unloaded from the back of a Bradley to join a firefight? Doubtful. The CIB and Combat Medic Badge are companion badges, given to the infantrymen and med-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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ics who go to extreme measures in comhat

Infantrymen are one thing: warriors. Medics are with them to keep them alive. If anyone wants a CIB or CMB, he can always reclass and do our job. Otherwise, accent the award that is given to all the other MOSs for being in a combat zone and having the possibility of being engaged by the enemy - the combat service unit patch. Spc. Clint McCollough

Camp Taii, Iraa

Earn the badge — retrain

In response to the writer of the Oct. 23 letter "Support soldiers get the shaft": Who deserves the Combat Infantryman Badge? Simply stated by Paragraph 2-6, Army Regulation 600-8-22, personnel with other than an infantry or Special Forces military occupational specialities are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances.

So, you want to earn the CIB? Do what the real infantrymen in the Army do: go to Fort Benning, Ga., and go through the 14-week one-station unit-training school Just because you are in a support position and had two weeks of "combat" training vou deserve the CIB? The answer is no.

It is unfortunate that on your three trips to Baghdad, your convoy was hit. As I see it, from an infantryman's point of view, when you go on combat patrols, spend four weeks in a place like Najaf, Iraq, getting shot at, hit by rocket-propelled grenades, and mortared countless times, then - and of course after completing infantry training at Fort Benning - you can wear the

Being in a support position is an important job. Someone must supply the bullets and food to the real infantry soldiers, the men who have chosen to fight wars as their profession. So, as so many of your support brothers and sisters, be glad that you are not in combat every day. Take comfort in knowing that outside the wire there are infantrymen who will fight, and who will die to keep you safe.

Retrain and live the infantry life. Then, maybe, you can look at your chest and hold your head high knowing that you are infantry.

Sgt. Jim Davis Camp Taji, Iraq

Equality in combat units

Regarding the article "Army ponders fe-ale role in 'units of action' " (Oct. 23): I male role in 'units of action' currently serve as an equal opportunity representative and conduct many classes on discrimination. Without fail, there is always somebody in the group who asks why women are banned from combat arms, if men and women are "equal." Leaders at many levels attempt to tell the soldiers that it is because of menstrual cvcles and other uncontrollable reasons.

The truth is, it is because Congress passed a law banning women in combat units. The reason? "Because America is not yet ready to watch women die in com-Well, women do die in combat, regardless of whether they are in combat units or support companies. We have proved that here in Iraq with 24 female deaths since March 2003.

So what about it? The Army has a policy that prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, creed, etc. In my time in the Army, I have watched many soldiers he relieved from a position for discriminating against soldiers of the opposite sex. I agree, people need to be free of discrimination and unfair treat-ment in the work force. But if we say that women cannot serve in combat units, than we are also saying that men and women really aren't equal and that the entire equal opportunity program is simply a formality, and a joke.

If a woman wishes to serve in combat

arms, she should be afforded that opportunity. These people who stand up and oppose women in combat - and then say 'but men and women are equal" - are nothing but hypocrites. If men and women are "equal," then make it "equal" across the board, rather than creating exceptions to the rule.

If the Army is going to enforce a standard, enforce it across the board, top to bottom. Quit telling soldiers they are equal, than treating them differently

Staff Sgt. Ross Eastman Camp Taji, Iraq

Thanks to dining staff

I am currently assigned to Camp Victory, Iraq. [Recently], due to mission reirements, I had seven personnel who did not make it back to base until 10 p.m. We went to the 1st Cavalry dining facility in the hopes that it would be open and able to feed my personnel. It was closed.

However, the manager and its staff did not send away my crew. Instead, they made sandwiches for us and made us feel very welcome. I would have understood if they had been bureaucratic and sent us away — they would have been within their rights. I and my crew would like to say thanks to them for being team players and supporting us. Master Sgt. Evan Wynn

Baghdad BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

The 'real job' is keeping Heinz Kerry quiet

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

n the spirit of the Kerry campaign official who declared Vice President Cheney's lesbian daughter "fair game," let us turn to the question of whether John Kerry's wife is fit to be first lady.

The issue is "fair game" because of how Teresa Heinz Kerry is behaving. Already wildly unpopular — her approval rating is an anemic 30 percent - she did the political equivalent of mooning her neighbors last week by insulting first lady Laura Bush. Said Heinz Kerry in an interview: "I don't know that she's ever had a real job - I mean, since she's been grown up.

The incident, including a quick apology for forgetting Bush was a teacher, librar an and full-time mother, was a one-day wonder because Laura Rush brushed it off. But it was not an isolated event. It fit a pattern Heinz Kerry established with a series of breezy putdowns and oddball rants

There was the blast at the "scumbags" who criticize her, the claim that "only an idiot" wouldn't like her husband's health care plan and her goofy suggestion that Caribbean hurricane victims "go naked for a while" until food was delivered.

My favorite came on her recent visit to Nevada to discuss health care. The 40-minute speech, per her usual rambling, it's-all-about-me style, included her remedy for arthritis: "You get some gin and get some white raisins only white raisins — and soak them in the gin for two weeks. Then eat nine of the raisins a day

Got it - not eight raisins, not 10 raisins,

She's a fan of Botox, Armani and hanel, calls herself "cheeky" and Chanel, calls herself "cheeky" and "sexy," but Kerry aides have heart palpitations every time she opens her mouth. Even some New York backers are con-

"We could have a bona fide head case as first lady," said a supporter.

"She's weird," says another. "She looks like she's on Prozac or something.

Radio man Don Imus, as usual, said what others can't: A Kerry supporter. Imus wondered whether Teresa is "too

crazy to be first lady.' I've been wondering myself. After watching her on several occasions and after following her antics on the trail. I've concluded she's not crazy. She's a rich.

And because she's so rich - a billionaire, with five houses, a private jet and income of perhaps \$50 million a year — she is used to being feared by the help and flattered by supplicants who hope she'll sprinkle a few pennies their way. The re-cipient of such bowing and scraping natu-

rally begins to feel wise, even superior. Arrogance is thus born.

Arrogance is what former Texas Gov. Ann Richards spotted in a privileged George H.W. Bush. The former president, Richards said, woke up on third base and thought he'd hit a triple.

But Heinz Kerry's arrogance is different. Worldly and intelligent, she exhibits a presumptiveness that recalls 19th century robber barons who believed their proved they were blessed, and that the poor, too, got what they deserved



Speeches she's given, including at the party's Boston convention, were mostly about her, as if her life is inspiring. She has a habit of lecturing, skips from topic to topic and tends to speak quietly, so you'll just have to listen harder.

Not to worry — there's not much to hear. Her story, stripped of hyperbole, comes to this: She was the child of privilege, and now she is the adult of privilege. Her doctor father was rich and so was her first, late husband. All her money is inherited.

After her marriage in 1966 to John Heinz, heir to the ketchup fortune, she quit her job as a translator and settled pampered world of the into the super-rich

So she hasn't had a real job for 40 vears

Oh, yes, she does give away Heinz money. She calls herself a philanthropist. Not exactly a job ordinary Americans can relate to Or a first lady

On balance, Kerry's military philosophy more fair

BY JOHN B. QUIGLEY

COLUMBUS Obio n defense policy, John Kerry doesn't have to do much to look better than President Bush.

Our current president surrounded himself with ideologues committed to controlling the world. He blurred the line between keeping the country safe and promoting corporations that profit from the resources of other countries

Backed by this crew, dubbed the "neo-cons," Bush espoused a new and dangerous doctrine of attacking other countries well in advance of an actual attack on us. The invasion of Iraq on phony informa-tion shows how easily this doctrine can be manipulated

John Kerry, as a senator, has generally voted for defense spending. But he says he will use military force

only when it is seriously necessary to pro tect the country. He voted to authorize Bush to invade Iraq but criticizes Bush for misusing intelligence information and failing to gain the support of key allies.

President Bush now tries to justify his invasion of Iraq by saying that he is success fully fighting terrorism by taking the war to the place where terrorists are. Kerry more plausibly, says that terrorism in Iraq has been generated by our occupation.

Despite President Bush's focus on terror ism as a defense priority, he is still fighting the Cold War. His multibillion-dollar program to build a missile defense system both on the ground and in space, is aimed at a threat from Russia that probably does not exist. Whether the missile defense system would even stop incoming missiles is an open question.

Kerry, as a senator, has voted funding for missile defense but does not view it as the priority that Bush does "We cannot afford to spend billions," he

said on the stump, "to deploy an unproven missile-defense system. Not only is it not ready, but it's the wrong priority for a war on terror where the enemy strikes with a bomb in the back of a truck, or a vial of anthrax in a briefcase.

The Iraq invasion has made the United States less safe. By bringing the United States into disrepute, especially in the Middle East, President Bush has left us more vulnerable to attack. More people are willing now to give up their own lives to attack U.S. targets. Beyond this circle of activists stand millions who support them morally and financially

characterizes Bush. Kerry can reduce anti-U.S. hatred and thus the risk of at-

Kerry has made a point of saying that he will try to reduce anti-U.S. hatred. However, Kerry will have to avoid Bush's strong tilt in favor of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if he wants to improve the U.S. image in the Middle East. To date, Kerry has given little indication he would do any thing different from Bush on Israel-Pales-

One issue that generates anti-U.S. resent-ment on which Kerry might do better than Bush is abuse of prisoners by our troops President Bush whitewashed the atrocities at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad as the acts of a few "bad apples" among our troops. Bush ignored internal memoranda that prove that the signal to torture came from the top of our defense establishment. Kerry has a record, from his Vietnam days, of opposing atrocities. He is a better bet than Bush to deal appropriately with a situation like Abu Ghraib

As to the welfare of our troops, Kerry is attuned to the hardships that military action brings to service personnel and their families

Bush calls them heroes but does little to ease their burdens

Both candidates say they would not institute a military draft, but Kerry's promise is more credible, since he would be less like-

ly to commit troops to unnecessary wars. Bush's sorry record on defense wasn't the result of a plan to make an opponent look good. But it does.

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Unemployment declines in Free to disagree eight battleground states

By LEIGH STROPE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Unemployment declined in September in eight of 10 states hotly contested in the presidential race - including Ohio, where job losses and a weak economy have boosted Democrat John Kerry's election hones

Last week's Labor Department report on regional and state employment in September was the last snap-shot of the labor market before the election.

Jobless rates also declined last month in the other states up for grabs by Kerry and President Bush in their race to 270 electoral votes: Pennsylvania, Flori-da, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Nevada and Colorado. Rates climbed in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Overall, unemployment rates fell in 23 states, rose in 22 states and held steady in five. Jobs were added last month in 33 states, lost in 16 states and were unchanged in one

Bush and Kerry are focused on nearly a dozen states where polls show the race especially tight. Polls suggest the race is close nationally as well, but most states are now decided.

In Ohio, which Bush narrowly won in 2000, the unemployment rate fell to 6 percent from 6.3 percent in August, mostly because jobseekers dropped out of the

August, fittisty occause jouscents triopped out of the labor pool. The national rate is 5.4 percent. Ohio employers' payrolls grew by 5,500 last month, but the state still lags far behind in jobs, losing 232,100 since Bush took office in January 2001. No Republican has won the White House without Ohio

"Manufacturing is the heartheat of the Midwest and there's no question that manufacturing is still struggling," said Anthony Chan, senior economist with JP Morgan Fleming Asset Management in Columbus, Ohio

Manufacturing employment in Ohio fell last month to its lowest level in decades with 823 700 workers on factory payrolls, down 174,300 since January 2001.

Across the country, manufacturing has gained

September unemployment rates

September unemployment rates in battlend states important to next month's presiden-

tial election (national rate is 5.4 percent) Arizona: 4.8 percent Arkansas: 5.5 percent Colorado: 4.9 percent

Florida: 4.5 percent Iowa: 4.7 percent Maine: 4.7 percent Michigan: 6.8 percent

Minnesota: 4.6 percent Missouri: 5.6 percent Nevada: 3.9 percent

New Hampshire: 3.5 percent New Mexico: 5.3 percent North Carolina: 4.8 percent

Ohio: 6 percent Oregon: 7.3 percent Pennsylvania: 5.3 percent

Washington: 5.6 percent West Virginia: 5 percent Wisconsin: 5 percent

rce: Lahor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics

about 70,000 jobs so far this year. But there are 2.7 million fewer manufacturing jobs in the United States since January 2001.

"We are definitely going to see a turn" in manufac-turing, Chan said. "But ... it's not going to be fast

enough to be evident before the election Last week Bush, campaigning in Canton, Ohio, touted the tax bill he recently signed into law. "I signed a bill that's going to help our manufacturers - that will

save \$77 billion over the next 10 years for the manufacturing sector of America," Bush said. "That will help keep jobs here."
Kerry often has criticized Bush as the first president since the Depression to lose jobs on his watch.

C

with SUV buyers

You mentioned in a recent column that you are often critical of people who don't need SUVs or other behemoth trucks but buy them anyway. I consider you two to be reasonably intelligent, but what's with this liberal wackiness? Isn't this America, where one can drive any vehicle de-sired? By the way, I drive a Mitsubishi Eclipse. I can't see around those huge SUVs during the day, and at night, their headlights shine right into my eyes. thev

could squash Click and Clack me like a bug. Still, I don't feel I have any

right to dictate which vehicle someone chooses to drive. How do I know what someone else truly needs? - Randall

TOM: This certainly is America, Randall. That's why we're entitled to give lousy, ill-informed, misleading and generally inflammatory advice through the media and sound absolutely certain of ourselves while doing so. It's a great American tradition!

RAY: Actually, you ask a fair question, Randall, and here's how I'd answer it: We have absolutely no power to dictate what people drive, but we do give our opinion when people ask us for it.

TOM: During the past 10 years, a lot of people have called or written to us when they've been tempted to buy an SUV. People saw SUVs as fashionable - friends or neighbors had them. People also perceived them as safe. And, of course, if you drove one, you wouldn't have to worry about seeing over other people - they would have to worry about seeing over you. RAY: What a lot of people

didn't seem to know about SUVs is that they're not all that safe (more rollover deaths than other types of vehicles), they drink gas, they handle badly, ride uncomfortably, are hard to park, they're danger to other cars, and they're responsible for so many ripped inseams (from people trying to get up into them) that they've been endorsed by NHTSA the Northern Hemi sphere Tailors and Seamstresses Association.

TOM: Having test-driven a lot of SUVs, we found that they're a lot like hula hoops: The novelty wears off pretty quickly. So, that's information

we want our readers know. In fact. the other day

my brother was testing a Lexus GX470, a luxury SUV. I was test-driving a Kia Spectra, a little South Korean-made shoe boy. He was begging me to swap with

RAY: I couldn't take it anymore! All that swaying around and bumping up and down, and I was down to my last pair of unripped khakis.

TOM: Now, if people know all that and decide that they want one anyway, we have no say over it. Nor should we. We are just of the opinion that if you don't really need an SUV (and that's your decision), you might not want to make all the compromises that owning one entails. We feel an obligation to share that opinion with our readers who ask

RAY: And since this is America, those who disagree with us are welcome to use our column to line the bottom of their bird cages. Or buy Rupert Murdoch's media empire and fire us. Was that a knock at the door

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspa-per, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features



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6,798.1			'SE Com			6,665.	87 +	F67.42	+1.02	+3.50	+11.9
1,314.2			nex Inde			1,314.		+3.27		+12.04	+23.7
2.153.8	3 1.750	.82 Na	isdao Co	mposite		1.969.	99 +	+41.20	+2.14	-1.67	+1.7.
1,163.2			LP 500			1,125.		+14.31	+1.29	+1.21	+7.3
618.4	6 532	.17 S8	P MidC			601.	61	+9.09	+1.53	+4.44	+9.8
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NortelN If	347182	3.29	10	SPDR	721439	112.88	+1.34	SiriusS	658858	3.89	13
DeltaAir	241452	4.94	+.31	SemiHTr	299211	32.21	+1.17	Intel	619482	22.00	+.6
Pfizer	228066	29.04	+.71	DJIA Diam	102807	100.14	+1.07	Cisco	619143	18.55	+.4
Citigrp GenElec	175316 165834	43.95 33.95	+.61	iShJapan iShRs2000	98336 89410	9.93	+1.15	SunMicro ApidMati	466230 439546	4.43 16.14	+.11
CardHit If	163748	47,35	+8.02	OilSvHT	58335	81.50	-2.45	Oracle	422782	12.59	+.3
TimeWarn	158865	16.39	+8.02	SP Engy	53010	35.28	62	Level3	300669	3.34	+.5
	156005	51.78	-1.43	SP Engl	41627	28.42	+.42	JDS Unigh		3.51	+.1
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EXCHANGE RATES Military rates

Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7769
Hungary (Forint)193.57
Iceland (Krona)69,505
Israel (Shekel)4.4405
Japan (Yen)106.51
Kuwait (Dinar)
Norway (Krone)6.06
Philippines (Peso) 56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.59
Singapore (Dollar)1.6612
South Korea (Won)1.128.00
Switzerland (Franc)1.14
Thailand (Baht)41.02
Turkey (Lira)1.471.000.00
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
For nonlocal currency exchange rates
(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
nv), check with your local military bank-
ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-
bank rates provided for reference when
buying currency. All figures are foreign
currencies to one dollar, except for the
British pound, which is represented in

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

'Hope floats' won't suffice

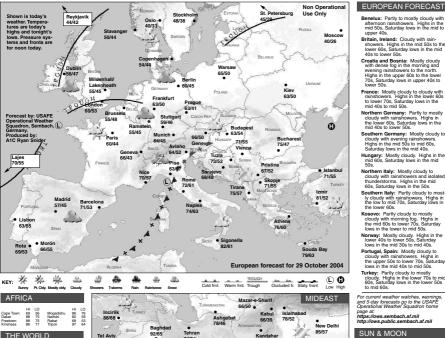
NEW YORK - It's time to get into the habit of balancing your checkbook better.

The so-called Check 21 will go into effect Thursday, changing several elements of check processing. Checks now will be converted into digital images, called substitute checks, and processed electronically through the banking system.

What this means for you is that your checks will be clearing much faster, says Tom Kunz, senior vice president for PNC Financial Services Group. You need to stay on your toes, especially if you write checks assuming you'll have a few days' "float" time before those checks clear. "Don't count on that float," Kunz warns.

Some banks may send you sub stitute checkswith your monthly bank statement. Other banks may simply allow you to access the digital images of your checks through their Web sites.

If you have a checking account, Kunz recommends that you ask your bank how it will be handling the new law. He singled out four questions to ask - namely, will you receive substitute checks every month; how will the bank handle overdraft charges as you get accustomed to quicker check processing; will existing bank services be quicker, and what new services may be offered?



77/43

90/74

93/76

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with afternoon rainshowers. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the mid to

upper 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the mid 50s to the lower 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with dense fog in the morning and with dense log if the frioriting and evening rainshowers to the north. Highs in the upper 60s to the lower 70s, Saturday lows in upper 40s to lower 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to mid 50s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the lower 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

cloudy with evening rainshowers Highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the mid

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s, Saturday lows in the 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy to most-ly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low to mid 70s, Saturday lows in the lower 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s to mid 80s, Saturday lows in the lower 50s

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil tp://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

Full moo Nov 27 First qtr. Nov 19

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TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK 705 708 7255 92 84 72 81 55 75 72 59 72 67 65 59 79 23 56 44 69 83 74 67 66 50 71 52 70 622 863 62 4173 652 6731 90 642 4751 61 4761 10 363 25 961 63 46 43 43 60 38 45 553 540 8878 1767 904 78573 877 647579 8477 775 7873 58 845 777 65 848 90 86 PCId PCId PCId PCId PCId PCId PCId Rain CId PCId Rain 49 46 76 36 47 61 44 70 57 54 56 34 66 66 47 64 49 72 62 72 47 70 65 67 35 43 20 PCIdy Cldy Clr Cldy PCidy Cldy Cldy agy Cld POId POId Rair Old POId POId PCId Cld Rair

THE UNITED STATES TODAY As of noon Eastern IIS time



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PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

Not-so-public access

INDIANAPOLIS — Government officials routinely broke or skirted Indiana's open records law, which makes public records available to anyone, a review by eight newspapers found.

Reporters presenting themselves as citizens visited government offices in all 92 counties to see how readily of

ties to see how readily officials turned over such records.

Results were better than a similar audit seven years ago, and some journalists obtained public records easily. But others were intimidated, questioned repeatedly, put off for days or mistakenly told they needed a court order or subpoena.

Rush County Sheriff Jim Owens threatened to jail a reporter if he continued to "intimidate my staff," the review found.

Reporters and editors in August tried to obtain 368 public records from crime logs and reports, public employee salaries and court files of sex offenders. Only 11 counties granted all four documents within 24 hours.

Who's in charge?

MASHINGTON — More than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, local officials in the nation's capital do not know what might lead the federal government to take control of public safety efforts in a future emergency.

"It's been unclear since 9/11 and we've been talking about it since then," District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams said.

Williams was among officials who testified at a D.C. Council Judicary Committee hearing into command and other jurisdictional issues stemming from the district's huge federal presence.

With more than 1,250 federal office buildings and 175 foreign diplomatic missions located in the district and its nearby suburbs, several local jurisdictions could have their response plans subordinated to federal control.

"There has got to be a level of understanding about who's in charge," said Richard Ben-Veniste, a former member of the 9/11 Commission.

The panel, established by Congress and named by President Bush, was charged with examining the terrorist attacks and making recommendations to Congress.

Return of Ms. Subways

NEW YORK — Miss, er, Ms. Subways rides again.

For the first time in 28 years, New York City's 220-mile underground rail network has a human face, that of Caroline Sanchez-Bernat. The 29-year-old actress edged out three other contenders for the title of Ms. Subways, a promotion revived for the transit system's centennial celebration this week.

Sanchez-Bernat was crowned Ms., er, Miss America-style with a tiara and sash at Ellen Hart Strum, a 1959 Miss Subways.

The new winner's photo will be posted in the subway, just as were those of the 300-plus women who



held the title between 1941 and 1976.

Chemical weapons charge

JACKSON — A man who authorities say hated the federal government was charged with attempting to acquire chemical weapons, explosives and weapons of mass destruction with the intent to attack official buildings.

Demetrius "Van" Crocker, 39, was characterized by U.S. Attorney Terrell Harris as having "hatred for the government, and anti-Semitic and racist views." Crocker is accused of attempting to obtain sarin nerve gas and C-4 explosives, according to a federal complaint filed.

Crocker was arrested Monday after an undercover federal agent met him to deliver fake explosives and what Crocker believed were ingredients for sarin, considered one of the world's deadliest chemical agents

New deer hunting gum

DEERBROOK — A deer hunter in Wisconsin is marketing a new type of chewing gum he claims can mask human-smelling breath and help hunters move closer to their prey.

Neil Bretl says his Gum-o-Flage



Hanging on Ripe tomatoes are seen in a field in

Ripe tomatoes are seen in a field it Camarillo, Calif. The winterlike storm that drenched California fields last week hurt the tomato harvest and contributed to a mount ing national shortage that has doubled prices at many stores. helps fool the animals' hypersensitive noses to human scent.

Hunters already can use special soap, shampoo and clothing detergent to eliminate human smell. Some even pay \$300 for scent-control coveralls. Now, for \$4.99, hunters can get 12 olive green, Chiclet-style tablets in a blister pack.

The idea came seven years ago when Bretl, a gun hunter since boyhood, began going after deer with a bow and arrow. That meant hunting at closer range, and Bretl took precautions to eliminate his human odor, including wearing carbon-lined clothing that was kept sealed in plastic bins with pine boughs.

Deer still picked up his scent. He turned to his brother and then-dental student Nicholas, who suggested the problem might be his breath.

Murder-suicide probed

MA LOWELL — A Dracut husband allegedly shot and killed a man and seriously wounded his estranged wife before he committed suicide, investigators said.

Barry Strykowski, 48, apparently went to the Lowell home of his estranged wife, Diana Strykowski, shot her once, and shot her companion, Jaroslab Stepancik, several times, according to the Middlesex district attorney's office.

Investigators are treating the incident as a murder-suicide.

Strykowski was pronounced dead at the scene. He had a gunshot wound to the head. Diana Strykowski. 44, was being

treated at Boston Medical Center. She is expected to survive, authorities said.

Stepancik, 51, was pronounced dead at Saints Memorial Medical Center in Lowell shortly after police arrived at the home, responding to a report of a possible fight.

Drive for five to vote

Southwest Voter Registration Project has cooked up a good idea to drive young Hispanic and American Indian voters to the polls this Election Day. Get five people to vote, win a

ALBUOUEROUE - The

shot at a car.

"We're not rewarding voters, we're rewarding volunteers who get voters to the polls with a

get voters to the polls with a chance to win. So far, it seems to be getting attention," Southwest Voter president Antonio Gonzalez said of the "Take 5 and Drive" giveaway. The contest — sponsored by

The contest — sponsored by Southwest Voter in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Nevada gives volunteers who take five friends or family members to the polls a chance to win a 2005 Ford Mustang.

An estimated 20,000 brochures in New Mexico were sent out advertising the giveaway, and the contest Web site already had more than 20,000 bits

Gonzalez said the names of voters submitted in the contest will be confirmed after the election by checking voter logs and making phone calls. Both political parties aren't complaining.



Moon over Massachusetts
Mount Holyoke in Hadley, Mass.

The moon rises above the Summit House atop



Frozen jack-o'-lantern Some Halloween decorations in coating of snow. A powerful Alaskan storm swept across California his week, flooding homes in San Francisco, cutting power to thousands and leading to a record-breaking snowfall in the Sierra.



Fall foliage The orange le against the with church in East Bridgewater, Mass.

The orange leaves of a maple tree stand out against the white clapboard steeple of a



The USS Constellation shoots confetti as it departs the Baltimore harbor Overdue visit for a visit to the U.S. Naval Academy. The historic voyage marks the first time the USS Constellation has traveled beyond the Key Bridge since arriving in Baltimore in 1955 and her first return to the Naval Academy in more than 110 years.



Bristol firefighters battle a house fire at 48 Oakland Hose down Street in Bristol, Conn.



Stylish pups Cody, a terrier, left, and Casey, a shitzu, model outfits by E&E Hall-

strom Haute Couture, a high-end clothing company for dogs in Hartsdale N.Y.



Pacific Gas & Electric workers spend time working on the power lines in Rakersfield, Calif., as the clouds started to move in before a rain storm hit.

Actor arrested in beating

NY SOUTHAMPTON — An actor playing a stressed-out soldier in a local stage production was arrested after he punched his leading lady in the face and then beat up the director backstage just before a scheduled performance, police said.

Witnesses told police that Brian Raber, 27, appeared to be playing his character when he began to hit the 17-year-old actress, who was hospitalized in serious but stable condition.

Raber was ordered held on \$100,000 bail at his arraignment on two counts of assault in the attacks at the theater on Long Island. He has pleaded not guilty.

Witnesses told police that Raber, who had starred for several weeks in "Home Front," about a soldier coming home from war, punched Bianca Massi for no apparent reason at the Historical Society Playhouse

Police said the director. Toni Munna, 51, was beaten when she stepped in to help Massi, who suffered a fractured cheek and eye socket Munna was treated for facial bruises

Catholic Charities CEO

MINNEAPOLIS — Catho-lic Charities USA named the Rev. Larry Snyder, executive director of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, as the national organization's next president and chief executive officer.

"I feel extremely gratified to have been tapped for this position. especially for such an accom-plished and highly esteemed organization," Snyder said in statement. Snyder will start the new job Feb 1 Snyder will replace the Rev. J.

Bryan Hehir, who served as president of the group from September 2001 until December 2003, when he returned to Boston for a job in the archdiocese there.

Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Va., is a national network of more than 1,400 Catholic Charities agencies

Train derails

MI DETROIT — A train carry-ing a flammable liquid derailed in a residential neighborhood, and hundreds of people were evacuated along with three schools, officials said. There were no reports of injuries or illness.

Nine of the CN freight train's cars left the tracks and some overturned, authorities said.

Four of the nine derailed tank cars contained methanol which is used as an antifreeze and is flammable. Some liquid reportedly leaked from the train, but fire offi cials described the leak as minimal

CN spokeswoman Gloria Combe said the leak was quickly contained. The cause had not been determined

About 1,500 students were evacuated from three schools. By late Monday, all evacuated residents were allowed back in their homes. Combe said.

Students succeeding

SC WEST COLUMBIA high school sophomores passed the South Carolina's new and more rigorous exit exam on their first

Education Superintendent Inez

Tenenbaum announced the results for 47 338 students who took the tests this past spring, measuring skills in English, reading and math. The old exam was based on an eighth-grade level of education.

Bat study funded

TN KNOXVILLE — The University of Tennessee has received nearly \$4 million to study

The National Science Foundation grant will enable scientists to conduct two studies, one on the benefits bats have on agriculture and the other on rabies in bats in the wild

Seal deaths puzzling

ME PORTLAND — Scientists investigating high mortality rates of seals say no fast answer has emerged.

Reports of stranded seals have slowed to normal rates in recent weeks, but researchers continue to search for clues about what hapnened to the harbor seals last summer in Maine

"We're peeling the onion, but we're still finding more layers,' said Greg Early, a Massachusetts researcher and one of the leaders of the federal team investigating Maine's seal deaths.

The mystery began in July with a surge of calls to the Northeast Marine Animal Lifeline The Westbrook-based network rescues sick or injured seals, tests and examines them and nurses the animals back to health. The calls continued at an unprecedented pace through August, says Greg Jakush, founder of the lifeline.

"We're at case 766 right now for the year," Jakush said, "Our average is 350 to 375 per year."

Electronics recycle, too

DC WASHINGTON — The city's public works department staged a semiannual electronics recycling event in Rock Creek Park

Residents of the district, northern Virginia and suburban Marvland brought obsolete computers, televisions and stereo equipment. The event was aimed at preventing the items from being discarded with regular solid waste and sent to landfills.

Plans for city park

NY NEW YORK — Union Square Park, which has undergone a series of renovations recently after suffering years of neglect, will undergo more improve-ments starting next autumn. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

The \$14 million redesign, which will focus on the north side of the 165-year-old park, will expand the park's two existing playgrounds into a single playground; introduce a year-round restaurant to replace a seasonal outdoor restaurant; and refurbish the plaza that holds the Union Square farmer's market.

The farmers market will remain open during construction.

The project will be the final phase of the reconstruction of the park. The southern portion of the park was rebuilt in 1986, and the southwest portion was renovated in 2002.

Still on the line

	AFRTS Television Schedule										
	Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sport section or AFN's Web site at http://mynafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/ ERBIN_CREEF_23_2004										
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)			
9:00	Stanley	Movie *** "The Boys of	Dr. Phil	The Mummy Underworld.	Nightline	Sports	30-Minute Meals	The Fairly OddParents			
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur Buster moves away.	St. Vincent" (1992, Drama) (Part 2 of 2) Henry Czerny.	Onrah Winfrey	The Brothers Garcia	Nightly Business Report Hardball With Chris Matthews		Easy Entertaining-Chiarello Decorating Cents	The Brothers Garcia			
10:00	Between the Lions (EI)	(:45) Movie ** "The Apart-	Guiding Light	Jeopardy! Headline News	Harddail With Chris Matthews		The Look for Less	Jeopardy! Headline News			
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	ment" (1996, Drama) Vincent Cassel, Romane Bohringer. An		ESPNews	Primetime Thursday	i	E! News Live	ESPNews			
11:30	Stanley Dora the Explorer	executive finds a flaky imposter	General Hospital Headline News	Advisory Block King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor	Sports Center	The King of Queens That '70s Show	Pacific Report King of the Hill			
12:00	The Wiggles "Work"	in an ex-lover's flat.	Judge Judy	That '70s Show	The O helly ractor	Sportscenter	Girlfriends	That '70s Show			
13:00	Bob the Builder	(:02) Movie ** * "Mother" (1996, Comedy) Albert Brooks.	Today A Halloween extrava- ganza: a haunted hotel.	The Apprentice	Good Morning America	NFL Total Access	Charmed "The Demon Who Came in From the Cold"	The Apprentice			
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Blue's Clues "Math!"	A man moves in with his moth-	ganza; a naunteo notei.	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of	-	Sports	Ally McBeal "Civil War"	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of			
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	er for a stab at self-analysis.		Fire (N)		l oponio	'	Fire (N)			
15:00	Funniest Home Videos Full House	(2:59) Movie ** "Murphy's Romance" (1985, Comedy)	Baby Looney Tunes (EI) Rocko's Modern Life	Pacific Report The Tonight Show	Headline News Channel One		Any Day Now	Pacific Report The Tonight Show			
15:30	Pokémon	Sally Field, James Garner, Bri-	The Fairly OddParents	The lonight Show	The Early Show	Baseball Tonight	ER "Sailing Away"	The Tonight Show			
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!	an Kerwin.	The Brothers Garcia	Late Show	1			Late Show			
17:00	Hey Arnold! Rocket Power	True Hollywood Story	Jeopardy! Headline News	Access Hollywood		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Mad Dog"	Access Hollywood			
17:30	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Backstories	ESPNews	Headline News	FOX News	Inside the NFL	The Simpsons	Headline News			
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	The Late Late Show			Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show			
19:00 19:30	ChalkZone The Weekenders (FI)	Movie *** "Evil Dead 2" (1987, Horror) Bruce Campbell,	King of the Hill That '70s Show	Dennis Miller	Primetime Thursday	Sports	Charmed "Witchstock"	Dennis Miller			
20:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Sarah Berry, Dan Hicks.	The Apprentice	1	FOX News	1	Boston Public "Chapter Thirty-				
20:30	All That Lizzie McGuire	(:35) Movie ** s "Army of Darkness" (1992, Horror)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	Inside Politics		Two"	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann			
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Bruce Campbell, Embeth	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (N)	Entertainment Studios.com	Inside Politics		Arctic Mission "People of the lce" Arctic culture.	Entertainment Studios.com			
22:00	Switched!	Davidtz, Marcus Gilbert.	Headline News	Today A Halloween extrava-	1	Baseball Tonight	Friends	Today A Halloween extrava-			
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe	(:16) Movie **s "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino,	The Tonight Show	ganza; a haunted hotel.	Headline News	The Hot List Around the Horn	Seinfeld The Daily Show	ganza; a haunted hotel.			
23:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	Michelle Pfeiffer, Steven Bauer.	Late Show		Lester Holt Live	Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date				
20.00				SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3	10, 2004	,					
00:00	Hey Arnold! Cheese festival. Rocket Power	(10:16) Movie ** "Scar- face" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino,	(11:30) Late Show	Zoboomafoo "Pets" (EI)	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	JoJo's Circus			
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Michelle Pfeiffer.	Access Hollywood Sports	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI) ChalkZone	NBC Nightly News ABC World News Tonight	1	Charmed "Witchstock"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI) ChalkZone			
1:30	Rugrats	(:18) Movie ** # "Hell Is for	Ороль	Powerpuff Girls!	CBS Evening News	NFL Live		The Weekenders (EI)			
2:00	ChalkZone The Weekenders (FI)	Heroes" (1962, Drama) Steve McQueen, Bobby Darin.		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius All That	Countdown With Keith Olber-	Sports	Boston Public "Chapter Thirty- Two"	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius All That			
2:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Movie *** "Evil Dead 2:	1	Sports	Hannity & Colmes	1	Arctic Mission "People of the	Sports			
3:30	All That	Movie * * * "Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn" (1987, Horror) Bruce Campbell, Sarah Berry.					lce" Arctic culture.				
4:00	Lizzie McGuire Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(:35) Movie *** "Silverado"			The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Friends Seinfeld				
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(1985, Western) Kevin Kline,	Headline News		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Breathingspace Yoga				
5:30		Scott Glenn, Danny Glover. The paths of four cowboys converge	ESPNews				Caribbean Workout				
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI) Blue's Clues (EI)	en route to a showdown.	Headline News Headline News	WWE Raw	Larry King Live		Body Shaping Every Woman	WWE Raw			
7:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961, Drama) Au-	JoJo's Circus		NewsNight With Aaron Brown		Beautiful Homes-Estates				
7:30	Amazing Animal Videos Lilo & Stitch "Yin-vang"	drey Hepburn, George Pep-	Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI) ChalkZone	Headline News My Life as a Teenage Robot	BET Nightly News	Air Force Football SportsCenter	Curb Appeal Landscapers' Challenge	Headline News Lizzie McGuire			
8:00	Teamo Supremo (EI)	pard, Patricia Neal.	The Weekenders (EI)	Outward Bound	Tavis Smiley	Sportsoenter	Weekend Warriors	Switched!			
9:00	Jackie Chan Adventures	(:07) Movie **s "Ground- hog Day" (1993, Comedy) Bill	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Radio Free Roscoe	Nightline		Clean House	Radio Free Roscoe			
9:30	Kim Possible "Queen Bebe" Teen Titans Slade's identity.	Murray, A TV weatherman is	All That	American Adventurer Access Hollywood	Nightly Business Report Hardball With Chris Matthews	NFL Matchup Rasehall Tonight	BBQ With Bobby Flav	American Adventurer Access Hollywood			
10:30	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt.	trapped in a Feb. 2 time warp.	Switched!	1			\$40-a-Day				
11:00	Dragonball GT	Movie *** "In a Lonely Place" (1950, Drama) Humphrey	Radio Free Roscoe	Headline News ESPNews	Dateline NBC	1	Hollywood Heroes	Headline News ESPNews			
11:30 12:00	X-Men: Evolution Teen Kids News (EI)	Bogart, Gloria Grahame.	American Adventurer Access Hollywood	George Lopez	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	101 Most Unforgettable SNL	According to Jim			
12:30	Tutenstein (EI)	(:45) Movie * * * * "The Ele-	1	Half & Half (Part 2 of 2)	1		Moments	Half & Half (Part 2 of 2)			
13:00	Endurance (EI) Scout's Safari "Visitor" (EI)	phant Man" (1980, Drama) John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins.	WWE Raw	CSI: Miami "Extreme"	CNN Saturday Morning	Sports	Intimate Portrait "Swoosie Kurtz"	CSI: Miami "Extreme"			
13:30	Animal Kidding	Based on the life of the mon- strously deformed John Mer-	According to Jim	Law & Order: Special Victims	20/20	1	Antiques Roadshow 'Kansas	Law & Order: Special Victims			
14:30	1	rick.	Half & Half CSI: Miami "Extreme"	Unit "Escape"		1	City, Missouri" (Part 3 of 3)	Unit "Escape"			
15:00 15:30	Most Extreme: Horrors	Movie *** "La Bamba" (1987) Lou Diamond Philips. A	CSI: Miami "Extreme"	Headline News Saturday Night Live	Today	NFL Live	Star Trek: Voyager "Emana- tions"	Headline News Saturday Night Live			
16:00	Hercules: The Legendary Jour-	fact-based account of Ritchie Valens' (1941-59) career.	Law & Order: Special Victims			SportsCenter	Ripley's Believe It or Not				
16:30	neys "The Warrior Princess" Hey Arnold!	Movie *** "Desert Bloom"	Unit "Escape" Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and	Wall Street Journal Report	College Gameday	Fear Factor	Kickin' It Latest in music and			
17:00 17:30	Hey Arnold! Rocket Power	(1986, Drama) Jon Voight. A	Navy/Marine Corps News	trends.	America's Black Forum	1		Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.			
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	teenager comes to terms with her family's problems.	Sports	Sports (Live)	News From CNN	College Football Teams to Be	What Not to Wear "Amanda"	Sports (Live)			
	Bugs Bunny's Howl-O Ween Scary Godmother Halloween	Movie * * "Scary Movie 3"	1		Dateline NBC	Announced.	Amanda could pass for 12. Trading Spaces Bedroom				
18:30			1		Datemile NDC		make-overs.				
18:30 19:00 19:30	Spooktakular	I(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris.									
19:00 19:30 20:00	Spooktakular What's New Scooby-Doo?	(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris, Anthony Anderson.			Headline News		Crossing Jordan "Most Likely"				
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30	Spooktakular What's New Scooby-Doo? Movie **s"Hocus Pocus" [1993, Comedy) Bette Midler,	(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris, Anthony Anderson. (:35) Movie ** * "The Per- fect Storm" (2000, Drama)	Snorte	Sports (Live)	Air Force TV News		· ·	Sports /Liva			
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30	Spooktakular What's New Scooby-Doo? Movie * * * "Hocus Pocus" (1993, Comedy) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker.	(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris, Anthony Anderson. (:35) Movie *** "The Per- fect Storm" (2000, Drama) George Clooney, Mark	Sports	Sports (Live)	Air Force TV News 20/20	College Football Teams to Be	1-800-Missing "Insomnia"	Sports (Live)			
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00	Spooktakular What's New Scooby-Doo? Movie **s"Hocus Pocus" [1993, Comedy) Bette Midler,	(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris, Anthony Anderson. (:35) Movie ** * "The Per- fect Storm" (2000, Drama)	Sports	Sports (Live)	Air Force TV News	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	1-800-Missing "Insomnia" Friends	Sports (Live)			
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30	Spooktakular What's New Scooby-Doo? Movie * * * "Hocus Pocus" (1993, Comedy) Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker.	(2003, Comedy) Anna Faris, Anthony Anderson. (:35) Movie ** * "The Perfect Storm" (2000, Drama) George Clooney, Mark Wahlbero, A fishing boat sails	Sports	Sports (Live)	Air Force TV News 20/20	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	1-800-Missing "Insomnia"	Sports (Live)			



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FACES

Pregnant Roberts visits hospital

A pregnant Julia Roberts was hospitalized after experiencing a series of early contractions, People magazine reported. The actress was accompanied by her husband,



contractions eventually stopped, but she remained under observation, People reported, citing unnamed sources

Roberts' New York-based publicist, Marcy Engleman, declined to comment

The 36-year-old movie star is expecting twins - a boy and a girl - in

early January.

People said Roberts' condition wasn't serious, but that her doctors had advised bed rest until her due date

Magazine rates Bush a villain

Readers of a British magazine have rated President Bush the year's top screen villain, for his appearance in Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11."

Bush beat out a shortlist of fictional film bad guys, including the nefarious Doctor Octopus, played by Alfred cluding the helarious Doctor Octobus, played by Aired Molina, in "Spider-Man 2"; cannibalistic Leatherface in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"; Andy Serkis' creepy Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy; and the eyepatch-wearing assassin played by **Daryl Hannah** in "Kill Bill: Vol. 2." Almost 10,000 people voted in the poll, conducted by Total Film magazine

Latifah could have hared it all

Had things worked out differently it might have been Oueen Latifah in "Monster's Ball" instead of Halle Berry

The ranner-singer-actress says she was slated to play the lead in the movie that netted Berry the Oscar

for best actress in 2002 Berry was the first black to ever win an Oscar in that category.

"I actually had that role before Halle. But they couldn't set it up. It would have been me, Sean Penn and Robert De Niro," Latifah said. Instead, the low-budget drama starred Berry, Heath Ledger and Billy Bob

Thornton Would Latifah have taken it all off for the role, as did Berry, for the movie's explicit sex scene?

"You wouldn't take that role without knowing what was there already." Latifah cautiously answered

Ougan Latifal

Kojak back — in slightly different form

Ving Rhames has signed with USA Network to a weekly series of "Kojak," debuting in March, Bonnie Hammer, president of USA Network, said Tuesday. Filming begins in Toronto in January

Production wrapped in August on a two-hour original movie, which will now serve as the premiere episode.

Telly Savalas starred as the stylish, crome-dome Lt. Theo Kojak in the police drama, which aired from

King creates list of pet peeves

Stephen King has compiled his list of Pet Peeves of 2004, with "annoyance levels" that range from minor headache to head-splitting migraine.

King writes in his Entertainment Weekly column that although pop culture is full of pleasures, it also

has its share of annovances. For every pretty, talented Elisha Cuthbert, there is a Paris Hilton

By exposing his own annoyances

"in all their triviality" — he hopes to encourage readers to speak of their own pet peeves, King writes in

the magazine's Oct. 29 issue The list includes pop star Britney

(and her little dog, too)."

Spears, who rates a minor headache; real estate mogul and "The Apprentice" star Donald Trump, a moderate to severe headache (due to unavoidable comb-over); and ads before theatrical movies, a head-splitting migraine.



The Futureheads are a British band in the vintage art-punk vein. Their debut record will come out in the States on Oct. 26. Left to right in rear: Jeff Jaff, Barry Hyde, and Dave Hyde. In front with glasses is Ross Millard.

Futureheads rock onto the U.S. music scene

BY SUSAN CARPENTER

Los Angeles Times The working-class city of Sunderland, England, is home to

50 bars, two strip clubs and zero movie theaters or rock ven-ues, placing it exactly nowhere in the minds of most Americans, or Brits for that matter.

But that's likely to change thanks to a quartet of young lads known as the Futureheads, a group whose "nasty and abrasive" music, as one of the members describes it, is among the most innovative and exciting in the growing post-post-punk scene

Never heard of them? No worries. If the world is a just place, they should be everywhere soon enough. The Futureheads make some of the smartest, most fun avant-pop around.

Judging from reactions at the group's first L.A. show at Spaceland last month, the Futureheads have nothing to worry about when it comes to finding an audience. First, the club was packed, even though the group's debut record had not washed up on American shores.

Second, more than a few folks in the ordinarily motionless.

been-there, done-that crowd even danced. Danced! "The re action was a little bit more than we expected," Ross Millard, the band's bookish-looking guitarist-vocalist, said the next day on the group's tour bus. "In cities that are famous for having a burgeoning music scene, you expect people to be a little more standoffish at gigs ... but it was like playing a show back where we're from. It was the same atmosphere, and the crowd - there was an intimacy there. We could relax onstage "Relaxed" isn't the word that comes to mind when seeing

the Futureheads perform. The group played with the wound-up intensity of a coiled spring, unleashing its manic energy through quick blasts of guitar that stopped on a dime and harmonized, cuckoo-clock vocals as each of the band's four members popped in and ducked out of songs for a word, phrase or stanza

Just two songs in, their tight-fitting dress shirts already were showing sweaty signs of their lightning-fast playing and high-energy performance. Forty-five minutes later, said shirts were in desperate need of a wringing.

If the set were any longer, you'd swear the group would pass out from fluid loss, but with youth, there is stamina. And this group is young — made up of Millard, 22, and his "best mates" Jaff, 22 (bass), and brothers Barry and David Hyde, 23 and 19 (lead vocals/guitar and drums, respectively

Friends before they came together as a band in 2000, the

group had met a couple of years earlier at the Sunderland City Detached Youth Project, a music program for at-risk youth in the down-and-out northeastern city that was once supported by coal mining and shipbuilding — industries that sed up shop long ago.

No one in the group fit the stereotypical profile of kids drinking on street corners or stealing cars; each was a musician with another band, simply taking advantage of the free practice space.

They got together as the Futureheads after their respective groups had split up. A few months of practice in Barry's garage yielded a handful of tunes and their first gig — four songs performed in seven minutes at the local cricket club.

"Our horizons weren't particularly broad," said Millard, his British accent thick as clotted cream. "We just thought, 'Well, we'll get a couple of songs together and we'll play some shows in front of our friends,' and then you just gradually take it from there. After a year of playing to the same hometown crowd of 15 at various bars and basements, they ventured to nearby New-

castle, where they played at the local university and opera house. Then came a tour of Europe and a string of "squat clubs" in Germany and the Netherlands.
Until that tour, David wasn't in the band; Peter Brewis was

drummer. But when Brewis opted out of traveling, David took his place.

It was at that point that the band really jelled. The group got back home and wrote and recorded their

first four-song singles, including two songs that also ap-peared on their album debut. "Robot" and "Stupid and Shal-low" are among the record's standouts — their fast-paced, staccato harmonies and asymmetrical rhythms defining the group's sound, which teeters on the edge of art rock but ultimately lands in pop territory

Performing songs off the single in London, the Future-heads were snatched up by Fantastic Plastic, an independent label that released two more singles by the group. Those singles went on to receive such rave reviews in the English media that the group was soon signed to an even bigger label, 679 Recordings - the British affiliate of Sire, which is releas ing the band's debut this side of the Atlantic.

The group's stock continues to rise. The Futureheads just wrapped their first North American tour, opening for Scottish faves Franz Ferdinand. They'll play the Troubadour in Hollywood on Nov. 20 as part of their first U.S. headline tour.

In the meantime, they're just relaxing in Sunderland, where they plan to stay, even though shops close at 4 and, David says, " "There's absolutely nothing to do but go out and

Stories and photos from wire services

SHOULDN'T WE SELL OUR

KING TO BUY ONE ?

WE START

OR, NO! I CAN'T

Horoscope

Much is accomplished early on, but the afternoon feels like a big waste of time. Where did the hours go? Well, maybe we all need the Joyce Jillson

mental break before a perfectly friendly evening. The Gemini moon brings an energetic social hum - no more embarrassing lulls in the conversation or awk ward moments of deciding

what to do next. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 29). This will be your

most fabulous year to date! You'll start by planning a trip somewhere you've always wanted to go. You'll wonder why you didn't do this sooner. Love connections grow stronger as you create more experiences with loved ones. Money in December gives you the means to do this Love signs are Pisces and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're ready to change the way you are seen in the eves of the world. An emotional outburst might occur in the process, but it's nothing to avoid. This show of passion will actually help a relationship in the long run

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have to think much to know what you're doing next. Instinct and desire take over, and before you know it, you're on your way to getting what you want

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's super lucky to let the world know your plans. That may be all you have to do to get things rolling, as it's extremely easy to gather momen-

tum with the stars on your side. CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You'll analyze your feelings, eage to come to definitive conclusions but there are no definite conclusions. Think of your current situation as a work in process instead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A child, parent or spouse is feeling needy right now. The problem is, so are you. Instead of trying to outdo one another to see who's got it worse,

recognize that by giving your full attention to someone else, you are also helping yourself

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Changes in workplace procedures could complicate your life. First, accept that this one is out of your hands. Make do as best

you can, or find a new work situation

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Embrace your unique power, and everyone around you will benefit. When the scales

tip against you, regain balance by focusing on what makes you special SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no

sense getting angry with someone who didn't keep his or her word. What is anger going to accomplish for you, other than to add fuel to an already explosive situation? Just let it go. Forget that promise was ever made.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). The heat is on. It seems like you've been waiting for this moment for months, maybe even years. You can dazzle with the best of 'em, so don't hold back. A higher-up is watching and secretly rooting for

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance anyway. Where would we be now if Copernicus had been too afraid to tell the world that the sun was at the center of the solar system? Don't worry what others think

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Beware of strangers bearing gifts or news that seems too good to be true. There's more here than meets the eye. Also, be sure to set some boundaries with that overbearing co-worker

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You and loved ones need to recon nect on some common ground. Talk about the tough issues. Whether it's where to go on your next vacation or when to start a family, you need to be flexible and find a compromise. Creators Syndicate

To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be remared "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Peanuts



ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT THE "GREAT PUMPKIN" WILL FLY OVER THIS PUMPKIN PATCH WITH HIS BAG OF TOYS, AND YOU AND I WILL BE REWARDED FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS



Rover

and

or Worse

KNOW YOU'RE JUST AS EXCITED AM ... I WISH I KNEW 1 YOU WERE THINKING..







I NEVER, DIER GET RID OF SOMETHING UNTIL I'M WHIPPED UP INTO SUCH A GUILT-RIDDEN STATE OVER HOW MICH MENEY I 305T SPENT ON THE NEW THING-THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE!

AT LEAST YOU HONOW SHE WON'T

BE DUMPING

500%



I HAVE TO BUY FIRST, THEN GET RID OF!

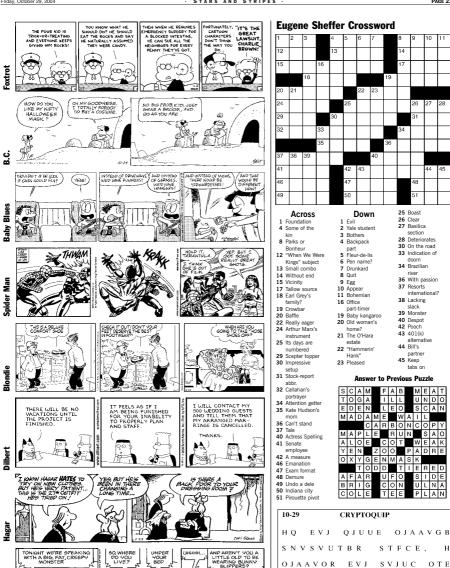








Friday, October 29, 2004 · STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 23



YOUR BED

GLAD TO BE HERE

Н

OJAAVOR EVJSVJUC OTE

EVJ'GR ZRNHFCYesterday's Cryptoquip: TWO FISHERMEN FRIENDS STARTED CHATTING BUT ENDED UP

OPENING A BIG CAN OF WORMS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals C

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

to the

four walls

TEEN'S ROOM

IS OFTEN IN

THIS SHAPE

Now arrange the circled letters to

suggested by the above cartoon

form the surprise answer, as

35000 %

Internet deviancy not acceptable JUR

Dear Abby: I am 36 and

"Vito," my significant other, is 44. I recently learned that he has been posing as a woman on an Internet swingers' site. He sends people naked photos of a girl and once I found a picture of a naked man. (Not him.)

One of his objectives is to recruit couples for a threesome and I believe he is also doing cybersex.

When I confronted Vito, he said it was just a ioke. But it isn't the first time he has done this, and it is very hurtful

Abby, Vito is sneaky passive-aggressive and an alcoholic. I have always believed if you had to hide something from your partner or spouse, it was cheating. Is cybersex cheat ing?

- Blondie in Daytona Beach Dear Blondie: Yes, cybersex is cheating. When someone hides something from a spouse or partner, it's usually with the knowledge that the spouse or

partner would disapprove Now, I have a question for you: Why are you wasting your time with someone who sneaks around looking for other sex partners? Romances like yours don't have happy endings. Be smart. Get checked for STDs and call it quits with Vito.

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: My ounger brother, who is 53, recently lost his job. His wife has never worked. They have spent their life traveling, driving expensive cars and entertaining lavishly. They never saved a nickel

I, on the other hand, have always lived frugally. My wife and I put our kids through college, we

live in a modest home, drive older cars and have never vacationed outside the United States. We have saved diligently and plan early retirement in a year

My mother and sister think we

should help my brother and his wife out by lending them money that we know will never be repaid. My brother has put me down for my thrifty ways, saying I could die tomorrow, then what good would all that money be? Well, tomorrow is here. My wife and I are prepared for whatever life may deal us in the future. Mom and Sis are angry that we refuse to give money to my brother and his wife. They made their

bed — now they can lie in it. Abby, please tell me if I'm - Able But Unwilling

in Alabama

Dear Able: Your philosophy of financial planning has paid off while your brother is now paying dearly for failing to provide for his future. Far be it from me to raise Cain with you about your decision, but if you felt comfort-able, you wouldn't be asking me to endorse it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion Unscramble these four lumbles Clean this mess

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words SYKAH URRYC

QUOMES **BLUEBB**

Print answer here: Jumbles: Answer

(Answers Inmorrow) FRAME CHESS VERBAL

What the King reduced when he sold the

roval crowns - HIS "OVER HEAD"

Yesterday's

A few tips for airline etiquette

Dear Annie: I am a huge fan of your column and would like to respond to "F/A in Toronto," the flight attendant who said a passenger clipped his nails while she served orange juice. I travel a lot. People seem to forget everyday courte es the moment they walk through airport security. On a recent flight, the woman sitting next to me changed her baby's dirty diaper on the seat between

us. Please print these guidelines for our fellow travelers: 1. Don't be afraid to use the washrooms on the plane. Teeth flossing, nail clipping, make-up application, nasal sprays, tweezing and changing diapers should be done in private. We don't want to watch vou

2. By all means, remove your shoes, but please, keep your feet on the ground. No one wants to smell them

3. Treat the people in the middle seat with respect. Don't grab

Annie's Mailbox

both armrests. 4. Be mindful that not everyone wants to ged in conversa tion. While you might be an interesting person, some of us prefer to work or sleep

5. If you have children, please don't let your 4-year-old run up and down the aisle screaming. It's OK to tell your child to stop kicking the seats and

making noise. 6. Please don't push when

exiting the plane. This is aggravating and dangerous.

And to the flight attendants: We know how hard you work, but please, when you see people doing inappropriate things, help us out. Thanks.

- Ottawa, Ontario Dear Ottawa: Thanks for your sensible suggestions. We hope they help

Dear Annie: I was annoyed with the letter from "Had It with PC," who is delighted when

waitresses call him "Hon" and "Dear." He says we should light-

My mother is 84 years old. All her nurses at the assisted-living home call her "Sweetie" and "Hon," even though they know her name

It is condescending to treat a woman her age as though she were 3 years old and anonymous

I'm 55 and hate when women 20 and 30 years younger call me "Hon

I notice these young women don't call each other by such

Whatever happened to "Sir" and "Ma'am" when addressing strangers of an older generation? - I Have a Name

Dear Name: Some people don't like those terms either, hecause it makes them feel old but when in doubt, it's best to err on the side of politeness.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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Family Circus



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Christel Lomahan of Hanau runs into a backhand return Thursday during her 8-1 consolation-round loss to Marianna Vertrudez of Alconbury on the opening day of the three-day 2004 DODDS-Europe tennis champion shins at the Tennis Center Vitis in the Wiesbaden suburb of Nordenstadt. The tournament ends Saturday

Top seeds remain on course for DODDS-Europe tennis titles

BY RUSTY BRYAN Stars and Strines

WIESBADEN-NORDENSTADT, Germany - The top seeds came through as expected in Thursday's opening matches of the 2004 DODDS-Europe tennis championships at the Tennis Cen-

That was bad news for Kaiserslautern's Greg Thompson, whose unseeded status paired him against top-seeded and defending champion Jun Koide of International School of Brussels in his second match of the day.

Just as the seeding committee predicted earlier in the week. Thompson, who defeated Adrian Nieto of AFNORTH 6-1, 6-2 in his opening match in the morning, fell to Koide 6-3, 6-1 after lunch.

"It was a little tough," Thompson said, "but we had a great game."

Thompson said he got a good

look at why Koide has been so successful here over the past couple of years.

"His consistency is amazing," Thompson said. "I could hit it hard or hit it soft, and it always came back. With most players, you can just serve and hit it, but with him you have to change it up every time."

Thompson rebounded from his match with Koide to defeat Nathan Stebbins of Iceland 8-2 in a consolation match, and there's plenty of consolation to be had, he

"I could still finish third or fourth," he said, "There's a lot left

The top-seeded girl, Lakenheath freshman Jackie Esguerra, also had an easy time on Thursday morning. Esguerra downed Christina

Compton of Hohenfels, 6-0, 6-0, in her only match of the day.

Esguerra will meet Stephanie

Best of Heidelberg, who lost just one game in her two Thursday vic-If the brackets hold Friday

morning, Koide will fourth-seeded Adam Beveridge of Ankara in the afternoon semis while No. 2 Devin Hayes of Hanau will face No. 3 Michael Sanchez of Heidelberg.

All seeded male players drew first-round byes, and in the second round, only Koide and Beveridge failed to win at love. Beveridge downed Rob McClure of London Central 6-1, 6-0.

If the girls' seeds hold, Esguerra will be playing fourth-seeded Molly King of Heidelberg in Friday afternoon's semis; while No. 2 Priscilia Roney of International School of Brussels would be facing Italy champion and No. 3 seed Flavia Cirrincione of Marymount.

The tournament concludes Saturday, with championship matches scheduled to begin at noon.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryann@mail.estripes.osd.mil

'05 Tour might not play to Armstrong's strengths By JEROME PUGMIRE Replacing the customary opensaid the lure of the world's big-

The Associated Press

PARIS - The 2005 Tour de France may give other riders their best chance to test Lance Armstrong, if he goes for a seventh straight title.

The mountaintop finishes are less intense and the time trials shorter, possibly cutting into Armstrong's strengths.

Organizers on Thursday unveiled the 2005 Tour route, which runs from July 2-24, passes through Germany and features 21 stages over 2.222 miles.

ing day prologue is an 11.8-mile time trial from Fromentiere to Noirmoutier-en-L'Ile. Armstrong usually dominates clock races, and the short distance of the opening stage seems designed to mini-

mize the gaps the Texan can It also means he'll have to be in top form right away. This year's race, with a mountain time trial and three intense unhill sprints.

played into the Texan's hands.

Armstrong has yet to fully commit to the 2005 Tour, but in July gest cycling race is tough to re-He captured a record sixth

straight title with an overall winning margin of 6 minutes, 19 seconds over Germany's Andreas Kloden. Italy's Ivan Basso was 6:40 back in third followed by Germany's Jan Ullrich, 8:50 back.

"Lance remains favorite and

will be stronger next year," Basso

Armstrong was listed as the even-money favorite to win again by the British bookmaker William Hill. Ullrich, the 1997 win-ner, was at 3-1 and Basso at 9-1.

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Friday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Rodeo: Profession sull Riding Finals, Round 1 (did). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—TBD programming. AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—TBD programming. dan Professional

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—NBA preseason: De-rori et Minnesotta.

Minnesotta.

— College football: Ha-wali at Bojes 2. a.m.—Rodec: Professional audit Riding Finals, Round 2. didin.

AFN-Atlantic. 2 a.m.—Rodec: Professional audit Riding Finals, Round 2. didin.

Property at Sacramento.

AFN-Sports, Sado a.m.—Air Force Football With Fisher De Berry (did).

AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.—College football: Ha-wali at boles 2. (did. College football: AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.—College football: Police Finals 2. did 100 s. College football: Salvantic Salvant

Penn St. at Ohio St.
ARN-Pacific, 5 p.m.—College football: Okla-homa at Oklahoma St.
ARN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.—College football:
Tennessee at South Carolina.
ARN-Altantic, 9:30 p.m.—College football:
Michigan at Michigan St.
ARN-Pacific, 9:30 p.m.—College football: Florida vs. Georgia.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—College football:
Texas at Colorado.

All times are Central European Time; did in-dicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football



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Detroit 28, NY. Glants 13
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lants at Minr N.T. Glains at millinesotal Carolina at Seattle Atlanta at Denver Oakland at San Diego New England at Pittsburgh San Francisco at Chicago Open: Tampa Bay, St. Louis, New Orleans,

Monday, Nov. 1 Miami at N.Y. Jets

NFL injury report

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league:

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ATLANTA FALCONS (5-2) AT DENVER BRONCOS (6-2) — Falcons (UT T Et Et Severt)
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Graech: CE Liki Shepgard (neck): Li Mark; Siring).

A Sharing Committee (1-4) at Sharing Committee (1-

DETROIT LIONS (4-2) AT DALLAS COWBOYS (2-4) — Lions: OUT: LB Boss Bailey (knee); LB (2-4) — Lions: OUT-LB Boss Bailey (Innee): LB Donte' Curry (Innee), QUESTIONABLE: CB Fernando Bryant (groin); LB James Davis (Knee); WR Az-Zahir Hakim (ankle); RB Cory Schlesinger (hamstring); WR Roy Williams (ankle); RB Cory Schlesinger (hamstring); WR Roy Williams (ankle); PROBABLE: DT Marcus Bell (Shoulder); DT Dan Wilkinson (upper arm). Cowboys: OUT: WR Terry Glenn (root); RB Julius Jones (shoulder), QUESTIONABLE: WR Quincy Morgan Hamstring). PROBABLE: DE Greg Cymorgan Hamstring). PROBABLE: DE Greg Ellis (1001), RB Reshard Lee (shoulder), GREEN BAY PACKES (1-4) AT WASHING-MERCH AND ACKES LEGAL AT WASHING-MERCH AND ACKES LEGAL AND ACKES LE

PROBABLE: TE fred Baster (hamstrings). The Company of the Walters (Lope 2 of the Company of the Company of the Walters (Lope 2 of the W

(head): I 1000 Wade (atrikle): PRODURGE - OA Aaron Glenn (hip).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (6-0) AT PITTS-BURGH STEELERS (5-1) — Patriots: OUT: LB Dan Klecko (knee). DOUBTFUL WR Delon Branch (knee). QUESTIONABLE: T Tom Ash-worth (back); WR Troy Brown (shoulder); RB TANK MCNAMARA

Patrick Pass (thigh); CB Tyrone Poole (knee), PROBABLE: QB Tom Brady (right shoulder), QB Jim Miller (right shoulder), Stoulder), QB Jim Miller (right shoulder), etc. CB Jim Miller (right shoulder), CB CB Jim Miller (Right Shoulder), CB CB CB Jim Miller (Right Shoulder), CB CB Jim Miller (Right Shoulder), CB Jim CB Jim Miller (Right Shoulder), RB Jim Miller

Haynes (knée); RB Duce Staley (knee).

NEW YORK GAINTS (4-2) AT MINNESOTA VIKINGS (5-1) — Glants: QUESTIONABLE: DT
Fred Robbins (shoulder); WA Amani Toomer
(hamstring); CB Frank Walker (ankle). VIkings: DOUSTRUL: LB Chris (clabhorne (calf);
C Cory Withrow (knee). QUESTIONABLE: G
Adam Goldberg (knee). WR Randry Moss
(hamstring). PROBAILE: RB Michael Bernett
Islams (quadriberson) (nee); RB Me WeilIslams (quadriberson) (nee); RB Me WeilIslams (particular of the Core of the Cor

OAKLAND RAIDERS (2-5) AT SAN DIEGO HARGERS (4-3) — Raiders: OUT: WR Car-os Francis (knee); G Frank Middleton (quad-CHARGETS (4-3) — Raiders OUT: WE Can-or Francis (under): Franch Middlotton (quad-ical francis (under): Francis Middlotton (quad-cal francis (under): Francis Middlotton (quad-cal francis (under): Francis

RB Labamian I ominison (groin).
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (1-5) AT CHICAGO
BEARS (1-5) — 49ers: OUT: C. Jeremy Newberry (knee): De Andrew Williams (shin).
DOUBTFUL LB Saleem Rasheed (knee), QUESTIONABLE: DE Andre Carter (back): CB
Ahmed Plummer (neck). PROBABLE: DE OUS
Leverette (andle): LB Derek Smith (Shin/andle). Bears: OUT: RB Jason McKle
(Vinsel: CB, Charles Tilliams (Area). DOUBTF. (shin/ankle). Bears: OUT: RB Jason McKil (knee): CB Charles Tillman (knee). DOUBT FUL G Mike Gandy (hamstring); S Bobby Gray (groin). QUESTIONABLE: DT Alfons Boone (knee): DE Adewale Ogunleye (calf) PROBABLE: G Ruben Brown (knee); C Olir Kreutz (elb

Monday

Minami DoLPHINS (1-6) AT NEW YORK JETS
(5-1) — Dolphins: OUT: DT TIME BOWE
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RPKDBABLE: T Vernon Carey (shoulder); Ba Jenery
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Greamy, OUESTIONABLE: IB Sam Cowart
Genet); G Brandon Moore (hamstring); GB
DEPTICK STARI (FOOD); R Bashad Washington

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Friday, Oct. 29 No. 18 Rojee State ve. Hawai

Saturday, Oct. 30 No. 1 Southern Cal at Washington State

No. 2 Oklahoma at No. 20 Oklahoma State No. 3 Auburn at Mississippi

No. 4 Miami at North Carolina No. 5 Florida State at Maryland No. 7 California vs. No. 20 Arizona State

No. 8 Texas at Colorado

No. 9 Utah at San Diego State No. 10 Georgia vs. Florida at Jacksonville, Fla No. 11 Tennessee at South Carolina

No. 12 Michigan vs. Michigan State No. 15 West Virginia at Rutgers No. 16 Texas A&M at Baylor

No. 17 Purdue at Northwestern

No. 23 Iowa at Illinois

No. 24 Minnesota at Indiana

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer playoffs Conference Semifinals

(Two-leg Aggregate Score Series) Eastern Conference Columbus vs. New England

Saturday, Oct. 23
New England 1, Columbus 0, New England leads series 1-0 Sunday, Oct. 31
New England at Columbus

D.C. United vs. MetroStars
Saturday, Oct. 23
D.C. United 2, MetroStars 0, D.C. United leads series 2-0

Saturday, Oct. 30
MetroStars at D.C. United
Western Conference
Kansas City vs. San Jose
Sunday, Oct. 24
San Jose 2, Kansas City 0, San Jose leads
Series 2-0 Saturday, Oct. 30 San Jose at Kansas City

Los Angeles vs. Colorado Friday, Oct. 22
Colorado 1, Los Angeles 0, Colorado leads series 1-0 Saturday, Oct. 30 Colorado at Los Angeles

Pro basketball

NBA preseason EASTERN CONFERENCE



Wednesday's ga Boston 96, Detroit 84

Boston 96, Detroll 34 and Scharles of Collago 19, Miami 103 Charlotte 93, Atlanta 89 Indiana 91, Chicago 71 Milwaukee 76, Minnesota 75 Milwaukee 76, Minnesota 75 Golden State 82, LA. Clippers 78 Thursday's games Atlanta vs. Cleveland at Pittsburgh Utah at New York

Philadelphia at New Jersey Memphis vs. Milwaukee at Green Bav. Wisc.

Denver at Houston Sacramento at Dalla Washington vs. L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma

Washington vs. Lin. City, Okla.
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers
Friday's ga
Cleveland at Toronto
Denver at Indiana Denver at Indiana Detroit at Minnesota New Orleans at San Antonio Portland at Seattle Phoenix at Sacramento

Tennis

Swiss Indoors Wednesday At St. Jakobshall

At St. Jakobshalle Basel, Switzerland Purse: \$1.255 million (Intl. Series) Surface: Carpet-Indoor Singles First Round ome Haehnel, France, def. Fernando

First Round
Jerome Haehnel, France, def. Fernando
Gonzalez (8), Chile, 6-3, 6-4.
Tim Henman (2), Britain, def. Antony Dupuis, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Mario Ancic, Croatla, 6-4, 6-3,
Ivan Ljubicic, Croatla, 6-4, 5-3,
Ivan Ljubicic, Croatla, 6-4, 5-3,
Ivan Ljubicia, Groatla, 6-4, 5-3,
Ivan Ljubicia, Groatla, 6-4, 5-1,
Nicolas Massu (7), Chile, def. Michal Kraticolas Massu (7), Chile, def. Michal KraWestjew Moodle, South Africa, def. Potito StWestjew Moodle, South Africa, def. Potito Sttochvil, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.
Wesley Moodle, South Africa, def. Potito St-arace, Italy, 6-4, 6-4.
Vince Spadea, United States, def. Filippo Volandri, Italy, 6-3, 4-0, retired. Rainer Schuettler (6), Germany, def. Rafael Nadal Spain, 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal, Spain, 6-3, 6-4. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, def. Albert Montanes, Spain 6-3, 6-3. Second Round Jiri Novak, Czech Republic, def. Tommy Ro-bredo (5), Spain, walkover.

Stockholm Open

Wednesday At Kungl. Tennishallen Stockholm, Sweden Purse: \$316,600 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Indoor

omas Johansson, Swseden, def. Robin erling (6), Sweden, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

St. Petersburg Open

Wednesday At Petersburgsky SCC St. Petersburg, Russia rse: \$1 million (Intl. Series) : Care

Pure 5 a minute in Servey Serv

Generali Ladies Open

Wednesday

At Intersport Arena Linz

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Sucria, Sidvakia, 6-4, 6-4.

Second Round
Elena Bovina (9), Russia, def. Marion Barto-li, France, 6-3, 6-1.

Alina Jidkova, Russia, def. Serena Williams (3) United States, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Nadia Petrova (5), Russia, def. Elena Likhovtseva, Russia, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.

SEAT Open

Wednesday At CK Sportcenter Kockelsh Luxembourg
Purse: \$225,500 (Tier III)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles

Singles Second Round Silvia Farina Elia (3), Italy, def. Tina Pisnik, ovenia, 6-4, 6-0. Slovenia, 6-4, 6-0.
Tatiana Golovin (6), France, def. Marlene Weingartner, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.
Anal Ivanovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def. Shinobu Asagoe (8), Japan, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Dally Randriantefy, Madagascar, def. Mary Pierce (5), France, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions BASEBALL

American League

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms
with 1B Rafael Palmeiro on a one-year contract. NEW YORK YANKEES—Signed LHP Danny Borrell to a minor league contract.

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES—Activated OF Cory
Sullivan and RHP Jason Young from the

Sollivan and RRP Jason Young from the 60-day DL BASKETBALL National Basketball Association NBA – Suspended Washington C Brendan Haywood three games, Washington G Larry Hugles one game, Chicago F C, Antonia C Basket C Ba ench during an Oct. 25 game. LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Walved G Nate ohnson and C Ike Nwanko. NEW JERSEY NETS—Waived F Darius Rice and F Damone Brown. NEW YORK KNICKS—Waived F Tracy Mur-

ay.

PHOENIX SUNS—Agreed to terms with F Amare Stoudemire on a contract extension

PHOLINIX SUNS—Agreed to Ferms with T-manare Stoudenine on a contract extension through the 2005-00TBALL MIAMI DOLPHINS—Placed DT Time Bowers on Injured reserve, Signed DT Mario Monds Signed C Jason Ball. Released DE Ronald Fiemons.

lemons.

DENVER BRONCOS—Placed RB Quentin

ariffin on injured reserve. Signed RB Cecil

sapp. Signed RB Kris Briggs to the practice GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed RB Dahrran Diedrick to the practice squad. Released RB

ledrick to the practice squad. Released RB ultan McCullough from the practice squad. OAKLAND RAIDERS—Released QB Brett En-emann and DB Brock Williams. Signed WR gemann and DB Brock Williams. Signet was LaShaun Ward to the practice squad. TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS—Signed RB Ear, nest Graham from the practice squad. Re leased WR Marcus Knight. Signed WR Derek McCoy to the practice squad. COLLEGE.

NCAA—Placed the Mississippi State foot-ball program on probation for four years, re-duced their scholarships by eight over the next two seasons and banned them from postseason play this season for recruiting vilations. NICHOLLS STATE—Named J.P. Piper men's

ESPN IS DOING HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL NOW? COMPLETE COMPLETE WITH SIDELIN REPORTERS





RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Air NASCAR

Hendrick tragedy shows risks inherent to racing aren't just at the track

BY MIKE HARRIS The Associated Press

fleet of private planes known as the "NASCAR Air Force" has made travel easier for drivers and teams. But Sunday's crash that killed 10 people flying to a race aboard a Hendrick Motorsports team plane showed such convenience also can involve

"We use planes just like our "said Ricky Rudd, one of several NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers who are also pilots. "We put a lot of hours in the air and have some of the best pilots in the country that fly these things, and some of

the best equipment. The backbone of the NASCAR air fleet has been two-engine, 12-passenger aircraft like the

Beech 200 King Air that crashed into the side of a mountain in thick fog Sunday while trying to

land at a small airport Martinsville near Speedway in Virginia. All aboard were killed, including team

owner Rick Hendrick's son, Ricky; his brother, John, and John's two daugh-

ters Jennifer and Kimberly Also on the plane were the team's general manager, Jeff Turner, and its chief engine builder, Randy Dorton, as well as Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont: Scott Lathram, 38, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morri-

For years, nearly everyone trayeled back and forth to the races in team vans or private cars, but the proliferation of private planes has changed that.

Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport - the closest airport for most teams - is buzzing with activity. More than 100 aircraft - helicopters and airplanes take off and land, ferrying drivers, team owners, crewmen, sponsors and fans to airports near the racetrack

More aircraft, including a pair of 727 jets owned by Roush Racing, fly in and out of nearby Charlotte Douglas International Air-

"Actually, it's not just race weekends," said Annette Privette, a spokeswoman for the city

Nextel Cup teams race 38 weekends each year, including two all-star events. On many of those weekends, the Concord, N.C., Regional Airport — the closest airport for most teams — is buzzing with activity.

> of Concord. "Our airport has approximately 200 aircraft based there and about 60 percent of are NASCAR-related. them There's a lot of flying back and forth to testing and pole nights and driver appearances and

> "It's convenient because the teams, obviously, want to spend as much time with their families

tice or vou miss practice. Miss practice, and they don't let you attempt to qualify

Petty Enterprises driver Jeff

Green sees private plane travel as more than just a convenience.

"Taking the chance on being de-

layed in an airport just won't work," Green said. "You have to

be there Friday morning for prac-

"It's more than just drivers. The crews, everybody has to use private planes. We're not talking about convenience, we're talking about necessity. To be able to test and to be able to get to the tracks

where you need to be - on top of doing the things you need to do for your sponsors and your team you just don't have much Mark Martin, another driver

who is also a pilot, lost his father, stepmother and half sister in 1998 when a private plane his father was piloting crashed in Nevada.

But Martin said he has no qualms about continuing to use his

"I suppose we've been pretty lucky in a way," Martin said in an interview last year.

"But everybody knows that flying is still safer than driving in your personal car. And we really have no

choice. We have to fly to get our jobs done." With the escalating use of helicopters - for short hauls - and

private planes, NASCAR's Air Force has a very good safety record

SEE AIR NASCAR ON PAGE 32



NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 33: Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500, 6:30 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson's win in the Subway 500 in Martinsville, Va., was marred by the s that a plane owned by his team, Hendrick Motorsports, crashed in thick fog en route to the race, killing all 10 people aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of owner

Rick Hendrick. The Hendrick team also includes Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers

Last year: Jeff Gordon held off a strong chall lenge from Tony Stewart and won the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500. The event was suspended one day because of rain.





Geoffrey Bodine, 197,478 mph Nextel Cup race record Bobby Labonte, 159.904 mph, Nov. 16, 1997.

swept both races in Atlan-ta since Bill Elliott in 1992.

Ryan Newman won his series-high seventh pole at Martinsville. ... None of the remaining championship contenders has an average finish better than 10th at At-

After 32 of 36 races 1. Kurt Rusch 6.015 5,919 2. Jeff Gordon 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5.890 4. Jimmie Johnson 5.808 5.791 5,769 6. Tony Stew 5.760 5.755

10. Jeremy Ma d 5.651 11. Jamie Mo v 4.053 12. Dale Jarrett

3,856 14. Bobby Lab 3 761 15. Kasev Kal 3.755 3,464

18 Busty Wal 3.428 19. Sterling N 3.416

BUSCH SERIES

Last race: Martin Truex Jr. exte Last race: Martin Truex Jr. extend-ed his points lead by holding off Greg Biffle in a green-white-checker restart and winning the Sam's Town 250 at the Memphis Motorsports Park, Truex, who has six wins this season, is now 208 points ahead of Kyle Busch

Last year: Greg Biffle passed Michael Waltrip for the lead with 10 laps left to win the Aaron's 312. Fast facts: Busch has not won since posting consecutive victories at Indianapolis and Michigan in Au-p-10 finishes in nine caree nces with the series at Atl

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Jamie McMurray be-came the eighth driver in NASCAR history to win in the Cup series, the

CHAMP CARS

s teammate's bid to clinch the ampionship by winning the Lex ark Indy 300 in Australia. Sebastier ourdais finished second and will

FORMULA ONE

INDY RACING

NCAA places Mississippi St. football on probation

The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. - Mississippi State's football program was placed on probation by the NCAA for four years, stripped of eight scholarships over the next two seasons and banned from postseason play this season because of recruiting violations.

The NCAA announced Wednesday that its infractions committee found two former assistants and several boosters broke recruiting rules between 1998-2002 But alle-

School stripped of eight scholarships next two seasons

against former coach Jackie Sherrill were dismissed

Sherrill retired after the 2003 season and was replaced by Sylvester Croom. The Bulldogs (2-5) won their first Southeastern Conference game under Croom, the first black head football coach in SEC history, last Saturday when they upset Florida.

The NCAA's decision came two months after Mississippi State ex-

"The uncertainty is gone," Croom said. "We can move forward and move our program in the direction we want it to go We will not, under my watch, be in this situation again

Thomas Yeager, chairman and commissioner of the NCAA committee, said the historical significance of hiring Croom was "im-material to our conclusion," but credited Mississippi State for cre-

ating "a new atmosphere surrounding rules compliance."

'There is a new direction with the program, ... Simply changing coaches does not necessarily mit gate [that] the committee will look favorably on that kind of per-sonnel action," Yeager said.

"In this case, it was a positive evaluation The Bulldogs are allowed just 81 football scholarships for the 2005 and 2006 seasons, and are

ing visits in each of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years — 11 ner year fewer than the maximum allowed by the NCAA.

Mississippi State in April admitted to secondary rules violations within the football program, but denied the more serious NCAA allegations of offering to provide cash and other perks to recruits.

The school had limited itself to 83 scholarships in the 2005-06 academic year as part of a self-imposed penalty - down from the

NCAA maximum of 85.

Brown big addition in Georgia backfield

5-foot-8 freshman teams with Ware to give Bulldogs another threat at running back

BY CHARLES ODUM The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. -Brown heard the doubters long before he arrived in Athens. In fact, some of the cynics were in his hometown

The 5-foot-8, 185-pound Brown signed with Georgia even though many believed he would be too small to play tailback in the South-Conference. Others eastern Georgia already had tailbacks and Brown thought would get pushed to the back of the line or assigned another posi-

Even some of his new team mates had their doubts - until the first practice in full pads.

You thought he was smaller and can't offer much, but as soon as you try to stop him you know he's a special talent," said safety Thomas Davis, one of Georgia's hardest hitters

After projected starter Kregg Lumpkin sustained a season-end ing knee injury during the first practice. Brown quickly moved up Georgia's depth chart.

Brown passed veterans Micha el Cooper, Tony Milton and Tyson Browning and finally challenged starter Danny Ware - also a freshman — for the top tailback

Ware is expected to start for No. 10 Georgia in Saturday's game against Florida, but Brown has earned unofficial co-starter status with back-to-back 100-yard games against Vanderbilt and Ar-

The 6-1, 212-pound Ware is regarded as a punishing runner. But Brown has won over his doubters with his sur power and relentless style surprising

"It's just how he runs," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "That's what we saw on tape and even in our early scrimmages. He's just a tenacious runner. He's very powerful for a guy his size."

Richt says Brown has a similar build and style as Atlanta Falcons tailback Warrick Dunn, who played at Florida State when Richt was the Seminoles' offensive coordinator.

"He's built so low to the ground, he has good balance," Richt said. "A lot of guys don't really accelerate on contact. A lot of guys slow down when contact comes. He bursts into it, not necssarily to take a guy straight-on. He'll try to make a guy miss but he will keep his legs driving when a lot of guys will stop.

Brown, who is as effective running inside as on toss sweeps, is durable enough to take 25 or more carries in a game, though Richt says he prefers to utilize

Georgia's denth at tailback. Ware (506 yards rushing) and Brown (412) each rank among

the SEC's top-10 rushers.



Georgia running back Thomas Brown (20) has rushed for over 100 vards the past two weeks in games against Vanderbilt and Arkansas.

So much for the doubters.

"Even people in my high school, in my hometown, were questioning 'Why come to Georgia when they have all those tailbacks? You're never going to play," said Brown, out of Tucker High School near Atlanta, "I had to come here and work hard and prove myself

Running behind offensive line men whose average size is 6-6, 301 pounds. Brown can be difficult for defenses to spot.

"I think my size is a great advantage," Brown said

Brown may have been a surprise earlier in the season for Georgia (6-1 overall, 4-1 SEC). but he has become known around the league after rushing for 80 or more yards in four games. Brown led Georgia with 23 carries for 107 vards in the Bulldogs' 20-14 win over Arkansas last week.

Brown had a season high in carries last week after Ware was slowed by a lung infection that de-

veloped from a bruised lung sustained earlier in the season Richt said Wednesday Ware has a clean bill of health.

Richt called the competition for the starting job between Ware and Brown "a close race." They each topped 100 yards against Vanderbilt, giving Georgia two backs with 100 yards rushing in the same game for the first time since 1992, when Garrison Hearst and Mack Strong each reached the mark against South Carolina

Georgia didn't have a 100-yard usher in 2003, but Brown and Ware already have combined for five 100-yard games this season.

The freshmen are emerging as a strength at a time stopping the run has become a concern for Mississippi State's Jerious Nor-

wood rushed for 174 yards and two touchdowns in State's 38-31 upset win over Florida last week. Florida ranks only seventh in

the league in rushing defense.

BCS to field offers from TV networks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The Bowl Championship Series could have a new television home for the 2006 season

ABC has had the broadcast rights to the BCS since 1998, when the system for crowning a college football champion was formed by the Big East, Big 12, Big Ten, Southeastern Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference and Pac-10.

The current contract runs out after the 2005 season.

ABC and the BCS have been negotiating a new contract since September, but have been unable to a get deal done. When the exclusive negotiation period ends next week BCS officials will open the bidding to other networks.
"We're looking at quite a

number of alternatives next week, and there's a good level of interest," Kevin O'Malley, television and marketing consultant to the BCS, said Wednesday

Talks between the BCS and ABC are still alive, though. "They still want to be very much in the mix," O'Malley said. "We want to have them in

BCS coordinator and Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said, "All of our options remain open to us, including

reaching an agreement with O'Malley and Weiberg de-

clined to identify the other networks interested in acquiring the rights

Even if he wants to, Spurrier return to Florida hardly a done deal By MARK LONG coached the Gators to 122 victo-Foley and school president Bern-

The Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - All the trophies Steve Spurrier brought to Florida still line the hallways inside Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Six Southeastern Conference

championships, two Heismans and a national title.

Spurrier's legacy remains and it always will.

He gave the program its first Heisman Trophy in 1966, its first SEC title in 1991 and its only national championship in 1996. He ries over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

So if Spurrier wants to coach at Florida again, is there anything that would prevent his return Maybe.

"Everybody thinks it's a done deal. It's not a done deal. It's not a slam dunk," said Tommy Donahoo, president of Gators Boosters Inc., which raises money for the school's athletic programs. "Spurrier can't just ask for the

iob and get it. There's certainly a contingency out there that wants him back, but there also are people upset with some of the things he did before.

For everything Spurrier would seemingly return to Gainesville — credibility, victories and chamnionshins - he also brings some baggage

Many fans are still upset over the way Spurrier left Florida. He called athletic director Jeremy

Foley from his beach house and dropped the news in the middle of the recruiting season.

His recruiting dropped the last few years - he admitted he left the "cupboard somewhat bare' and he wanted to limit the number of stops he made on the annual tour of "Gator Clubs."

Speculation about his return has even prompted concerns about his age (is 59 older than ideal?) and his motivation (will he leave again for the NFL?).

Would players, fans, boosters,

ie Machen be willing to trade potential problems for the chance to restore the Gators to the national elite? Would they be silly not to?

As for Spurrier and Foley, the AD says the relationship hasn't soured

"Steve Spurrier and I were friends before he was the head

football coach at the University of Florida, we're friends today and we'll be friends forever," Foley said. "Did we always see eye to eye and stuff? No, but our friendship has never been better.

WR Boldin set to make season debut for Cards

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin went through a full workout in pads Wednesday and said

pads Wednesday and said there's no doubt he'll play in Sunday's game at Buffalo.

"For the past couple of weeks, my goal has been to get back on the field without any setbacks any swelling or any pain," he said. "I think I've reached that goal right now."

Boldin, last season's NFL rookie of the year, will be upgraded to probable on Thursday, coach Dennis Green said.

Green said that if Boldin is active for Sunday's game, "he'll play a significant amount."

Boldin has been sidelined since his right knee locked up during training camp on Aug. 10. He underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage.

Boldin missed a season at Florida State with an injured left knee, and that helped him understand what it takes to come back.

"Just be patient. I think that's the most important part — work hard and be patient," Boldin said. "You can't come back too soon because you'll just end up getting hurt again."

Hobbled Tomlinson expects to play against Raiders

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson missed practice



Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com



NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Saturday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league):

Panthers: RB Stephen Davis (knee) will not play Sunday: WR Steve Smith (broken leg) out for Season.

Rei leg) out for season.

Raiders: CB Charles Woodson (hip) status uncertain; OG Frank Middleton (torn quadriceps) out for rest of season.

tus uncertain; OG Frank Middleton (torn quadriceps) out for rest of season. Redskins: LB LaVar Arrington (knee, thigh) doubtful; K John Hall (groin) doubtful.

Seahawks: WR Bobby Engram (ankle) doubtful; LB Isaiah Kacyvenski (ankle) doubtful. Titans: QB Steve McNair (bruised chest) questionable.

Wednesday and will probably sit out Thursday because of a strained groin, but the San Diego Chargers running back expects to play against the Oakland Raiders. Tomlinson has been playing

through the injury the past three weeks.

Two of Tomlinson's five biggest games as a pro came against the Raiders in 2003. He had a career-high 243 yards in a home win in the season finale, and 187

yards in an overtime loss at Oakland on Sept. 28.

But Tomlinson hasn't rushed for more than 65 yards in the past

three games.
"It was pretty bad at first, but it's getting better," said Tomlinson, who was hurt in the second half of a home win against Tennessee on Oct. 3.

Vikings WR Moss practices with strained hamstring

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss practiced Wednesday despite a strained right hamstring, but Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice wouldn't say what kind of role his star receiver



LaDainian Tomlinson has missed parts of San Diego's past three games with a strained groin.

would play Sunday.

Moss was limited in practice and left early to get treatment for his hamstring, which he injured Oct. 17 at New Orleans. Tice sounded optimistic about Moss' perowery.

"He did really everything we wanted him to do and probably a little bit more," the coach said.

Moss made a token start last Sunday against Tennessee to keep his consecutive games streak alive at 102. He's expected to have a bigger role against this weekend against the Giants.

Redskins rookie Taylor arrested on drunken-driving charge

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins rookie Sean Taylor was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving under the influence and refusing a breathalyzer test.

Taylor was pulled over by a Virginia state trooper at about 2:45 am. EDT, on Washington's Interstate 495. The officer suspected Taylor had been drinking, and Taylor flunked some field sobriety tests, according to Virgines State Police Lt. Harry Newlin.

Taylor was held for several hours in the Fairfax County Jail and released on an unsecured bond at about 10 am. He is due in court Dec. 1. A first offense is punishable by up to one year in prison and/or a \$2.500 fine.

49ers' first-round picks struggling

By GREG BEACHAM

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers insist their salvation will arrive through the draft.

They hope years of bad contracts, unlucky injuries and salary-cap woes can be erased through solid choices in April.

The trouble is, the 49ers' record in restocking their roster isn't much more impressive than their 1-5 mark this season — particularly when it matters most. San Francisco has made 10

first-round picks in the past 10 years. Only six are with the team, and not one has played a significant role for the 49ers this season.

Linebacker Julian Peterson and cornerback Mike Rumph are out for the year with injuries, while cornerback Ahmed Plummer, defensive end Andre Carter and left tackle Kwame Harris have been limited by less-serious injuries.

Receiver Rashaun Woods, the top pick in last April's draft, is stuck as the 49ers' No. 5 receiver, still playing catch-up after getting hurt during training camp.

And except for Peterson, who became an All-Pro linebacker last season before his contract holdout and subsequent heel injury, none of the 10 first-round picks has been as good as the 49ers hoped.

"There are no classes in college that you can take to prepare you for being a first-round draft pick in the NFL." said Harris. "There are always more expectations in that position, and there's nothing you can do about it."

The 40ers love to tout the expectations in the state of the said of th

ploits of a roster stocked with more of their own draft choices than nearly any other team — but those choices haven't added up to a competitive team this season. San Francisco, which plays at Chicago on Sunday night, has its worst record after six games

since 1979.

Sure, there have been several

stellar picks by the 49ers in recent years. In fact, you could argue that the 49ers have more success in the seventh round of the draft than the first

Quarterbacks Tim Rattay and Ken Dorsey, starting offensive linemen Kyle Kosier and Eric Heitmann, tight end Eric Johnson and even long-snapper Brian Jennings were final-round gems.

But the team's first-round picks

— the ones who command the
most money and scrutiny —
haven't been much help in keeping the 49ers out of the cellar.

San Francisco had two total busts in the late 1990s — quarterback Jim Druckenmiller and defensive tackle Reggie McGrew and a near-bust in receiver J.J. Stokes, who hung around for eight years on the strength of his unrealized potential.

They drafted cornerback R.W. McQuarters in 1998, but traded him to the Bears before he developed into a dependable player.

Since then, San Francisco has picked six players who are works in progress — though there's no common theme to their various struggles and sethacks.

Nobody has more work to do than Woods, quietly expected to be a major contributor to the 49ers' offense this season after being chosen with the 31st overall pick. Instead, he has struggled to adjust to the speed and precision of the pro game, and now finds himself far down the bench.

"I know they expect me to eventually come out and do well and justify where they picked me," Woods said.

Harris' struggles have been among the most dismaying to the 49ers, who hoped the 6-foot-7 tackle would be entrenched as the offensive line's anchor by now. Last winter, they got rid of Derrick Deese to pave the way for his ascension.

But Harris has been hurt for much of the season, and he still shows up on many highlight films failing to block a pass-rusher steamrolling Rattay or Dorsey.

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Redskins are accurate Election Day predictors By Joseph White vote for this candidate just be-

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — This election season, Washington Redskins cornerback Fred Smoot has a predicament faced by many NFL players: a Democrat's background and a Republican's income. "They turn Rebublican, I see

it all the time," Smoot said. "It all goes back to changing your economic value."

Smoot, a black from modest

Smoot, a black from modest means in Mississippi, has decided to choose his roots over his pocketbook. He is supporting John Kerry for president.

"When you go into a higher tax bracket, all of a sudden you don't want to vote for this candidate because he's going to raise taxes," Smoot said. "I thought about it. I'm not going to solely vote for this candidate just because he's going to be save me a couple of dollars and it not turn out to be the best thing for me or my country."

That, however, presents

That, nowever, presents Smoot with another dilemma: For Kerry to win, the Redskins have to lose on Sunday — at least according to a bizarre statistical correlation that's been accurate for seven decades.

"I'm hoping John Kerry can kind of reverse the curse," Smoot said. "This is the millennium for all trends to be broken." Since the Redskins became

of the Redskins in 1933, the result of the team's final home game before the presidential election has correctly predicted the White House winner. If the Redskins win, the incumbent party wins. If they lose, the incumbent party is ousted.

Mourners gather for vigil at Hendrick Motorsports

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. - Hundreds of candle-bearing mourners gathered outside the Hendrick Motorsports complex for a vigil Wednesday evening for 10 people who died in the crash of the team

Team owner Rick Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces were among the victims when the race Sunday in Virginia.

At dusk, the mourners lit candles while the Christian band MercyMe played on loudspeakers that were mounted above dozens of bouquets and cards.

There also was a large picture showing the victims in happier times with the inscription: "Always In Our Hearts.'

Randie Skaggs of Denver, N.C., came to the service with her husband, Jeremy.

"The NASCAR community needs to stick together," she said, her eves welling up with tears. "We feel like we know all these guys because we follow all the

Her husband wore a cap that showed his support for one of Hen-drick Motorsports' drivers, Jimmie Johnson, who won Sunday's Nextel Cup race at Martinsville.

Johnson didn't learn about the crash until after he won the Subway 500.

"It was a real roller coaster,"

Sports briefs

Skaggs said, holding his unlit candle before the ceremony began. "Everyone was so happy for a minute and then we heard the news. It made the race seem so unimportant.'

The Beech 200 King Air was headed from Concord to Martinsville, Va., when it slammed into the side of Bull Mountain in Patrick Springs, Va., after missing its first landing attempt. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash

Police: No alcohol or drugs in Strzelczyk at time of crash

HERKIMER, N.Y. - Former NFL player Justin Strzelczyk did not have alcohol or drugs in his system when he died after leading police on a highway chase, authorities said

State police initially believed the one-time lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers was intoxicated. saying he threw a beer bottle out the window during the pursuit. State police investigator James Hunt said Thursday troopers have since confirmed it was a plastic soda bottle.

Police are testing the liquid inside but it appears that Strzelczyk had been chewing tobacco and was using the bottle as a spittoon.



during a vigil on Wednesday at Hendrick Motorsports in Concord, N.C.

Strzelczyk, 36, died Sept. 30 after his pickup truck slammed into a tanker truck and exploded after a 90-mph chase along a 40-mile stretch of the New York State Thruway.

Strzelczyk, an offensive lineman, played with the Steelers for nearly a decade until the team released him in 2000

Spencer loses his Nextel ride

CORNELIUS, N.C. — Jimmy Spencer was fired by Morgan Mc-Clure Motorsports, just days after he was arrested and accused of interfering with police officers as they attempted to serve a warrant on his son.

Spencer has driven 25 races for the team this season without posting a top-10 finish. The team didn't indicate whether the firing was because of Spencer's arrest.

On Sunday night officers went to Spencer's home to arrest James Jonathan Spencer Jr., 18, on a misdemeanor charge of iniury to personal property. He is accused of pouring paint on two cars at a Cornelius home Oct. 6.

Garcia, Lara lead Volvo Masters

SOTOGRANDE, Spain — Sergio Garcia shot 4-under-par 67 in windy conditions Thursday to share the first-round lead of the Volvo Masters with fellow Spaniard Jose Manuel Lara, who was

stung by a bee early in his round Brian Davis and Alastair Forsyth were at 68, with Luke Donald. Peter O'Malley. Christian Cevaer and Jonathan Lomas at 69. Colin Montgomerie, who won on this course in 1993 and shared the title with Bernhard Langer two years ago, shot 75 in the final event of the season on the European Tour.

Air NASCAR: Fast transit a way of life

Driver Alan Kulwicki and three others were killed in the crash of a private plane in 1993 while flying to a race in Bristol, Tenn.

Later that same year, Davey Allison died in the crash of his helicopter as he tried to land at Talladega Superspeedway. There had been no air-

craft-related fatalities in NASCAR since, but that doesn't mean there haven't

In one three-week period in November 2003, Martin's plane blew two tires taking off from a Goodyear, Ariz, airport after racing at Phoenix, a plane carrying Petty crewmen also blew a tire on takeoff after a test earlier in Phoenix, and driver Tony Stewart's plane hit a deer while landing to refuel at a rural Texas airport on the way to the Phoenix race. There were no injuries. "Things happen but, in most

cases, it's just a matter on being inconvenienced, having to wait for repairs or hitching a ride on somebody else's still no substitute for the private planes."

There is however a substitute for the small planes.

Martin's team owner, Jack Roush, bought his 727s four years ago after starting to feel less and less comfortable about having up to 16 small planes in the air each race weekend

"I have five teams and we'd have five small planes going to the track on Thursday night or Friday and five more on Sunday morning," Roush said. "Then myself and the five drivers were usually flying our planes in and out, too.

"There's tremendous con-gestion at these airports, al-though I think the FAA does a great job on regulating the air traffic associated with our events. Still, I didn't feel like I wanted to continue to have the responsibility for 16 airplanes, all the maintenance and pilot

Since his team has been using the big planes, with pilots trained for commercial air-lines transporting most of his people, Roush said he is sleeping better.
"I'm confident as I can be in

the safety of our planes and the ability of our pilots, but I still breath a sigh of relief every time we get through a race weekend without a prob-lem," Roush said.

Wizards' Haywood gets three for fighting

NEW YORK - Brendan Haywood of the Washington Wizards was suspended for three games by the NBA on Wednesday for fighting during a preseason game

NBA briefs

against the Chicago Bulls. Antonio Davis and Eddy Curry of the Bulls received two-game suspensions, Washington's Larry Hughes drew a one-game suspension and Bulls guard

Kirk Hinrich was fined \$10.000. "It's tough," Curry said of his suspension. "I wasn't expecting that. But there's nothing I can do about it '

The penalties were announced Wednesday by NBA vice president Stu Jackson, who found Haywood most at fault for the fight late in the third quarter of Chicago's 100-95 victo-

ry on Monday night.

Haywood, Davis and Curry were suspend ed for throwing punches, while Hughes was penalized for initiating the confrontation by head-butting Hinrich.

The suspensions take effect with the start of

"We accept the ruling handed down by the league, however we do feel it's heavy-hand-Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said "We will have to step up and come together as we will be shorthanded for the first three

games of the regular season. Washington guard Gilbert Arenas has already been suspended by the NBA for one game because he failed to maintain proper registration of a handgun in 2003

Suns' Stoudemire gets contract extension

PHOENIX - Amare Stoudemire, the 2003 NBA Rookie of the Year, had his contract extended Wednesday by the Phoenix Suns, who exercised their fourth-year option on the con-

Stoudemire will receive \$2.6 million in the 2005-06 season, then he will be a restricted free agent. That gives the Suns the right of first refusal, meaning they could keep him by matching another team's offer.
The 6-foot-10 Stoudemire, who turns 22

next month, was the first player to enter the

NBA directly from high school and win its top mokie honoi

Pacers' A. Johnson out 6-8 weeks with broken hand

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers backup point guard Anthony Johnson broke his right hand in Tuesday's preseason game against Memphis and is expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks.

The eight-year veteran, the primary backup to starter Jamaal Tinsley, had his hand placed in a cast on Wednesday - the same day center Jeff Foster had arthroscopic surgery to repair frayed cartilage in his right hip. He is also expected to miss 6 to 8 weeks Johnson will not need surgery.

Scot Pollard will start at center while Foster

Forwards Jermaine O'Neal (sprained left foot), Ron Artest (sore right knee) and Jonathan Bender (sore left knee) and center David Harrison (sprained left shoulder) have also been injured this preseason.

Carlisle said there is "major concern" that O'Neal might not be ready for the regular-season opener at Cleveland on Nov. 3.

NHL officials meet, but lockout is not a topic of conversation Brown said Wednesday, the 42nd day of BY IRA PODELL business Tuesday and got together with

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Negotiators for the NHL and its players' union discussed various tonics in their first face-to-face meeting in over a month, but the league's labor problems were not the focus of the talks. Ted Saskin, the senior director of the

players association, was in New York on

Bill Daly — the NHL's chief legal officer.

gaining agreement.

The sides had not met in person since the last negotiating session on Sept. 9, one week before the NHL imposed a lockout following the expiration of the collective bar-

"I know they were in the same place, but it was more of a conversation as opposed to a negotiation." NHL spokesman Frank the lockout

Daly and Saskin talked about last month's World Cup of Hockey tournament. a joint venture between the league and the players association, and other issues. No plans were made for future meetings

The NHL regular season was due to begin Oct. 13, but games are being can-celed by teams on a 45-day rolling basis.

During the last negotiating session in Toronto, the NHLPA proposed a luxury-tax based system that was rejected by

The NHL wants a system that guarantees "cost certainty," which the players association says is akin to a salary cap - a solution it refuses to accept.

Player representatives from all 30 clubs will meet with union leadership in Toronto on Tuesday to get an update on the lockout.

Palmeiro re-signs with Orioles $|\operatorname{Red}\operatorname{Sox}\operatorname{dominate}|$

BALTIMORE Rafael Palmeiro didn't want his homecoming with the Baltimore Orioles to end after just one season so he took a pay cut and accepted a one-year, \$3 million contract

Wednesday. Palmeiro, 40, returned to the Orioles this season after a five-year absence. He batted .258 with 23 homers and 88 RBIs the first time since 1994 that he failed to hit at least 38 homers

and drive in 100 runs He had a clause in his \$4.5 million contract that called for him to receive an identical sum in 2005 if he played 140 games at first base. but Orioles manager Lee Mazzilli drastically reduced Palmeiro's playing time in the field as the sea-

son drew to a close. Palmeiro finished with 128 games at first base - only eight

after Sept. 7.
But Palmeiro enjoyed playing in Baltimore, where he spent five seasons during the 1990s, and decided it would be better to come back to a comfortable environment than to become a free agent.

T'm very happy. Otherwise, I wouldn't be returning," he said in a phone interview from his Texas home. "What happened last year is in the past. I'm not going to worry about it. I'm more concerned with moving forward

Palmeiro played a key role in the Orioles' return to respectability this season. Baltimore ended a six-year run of fourth-place finish es in the AL East, closing in third place with a 78-84 record.

Palmeiro ranks 10th on the career list with 551 homers and is just 78 hits short of 3,000.

Baseball briefs

Mets interview Riggleman

NEW YORK - Jim Riggleman interviewed Wednesday for the Mets' managing job, and the team hopes to hire a replacement for Art Howe next week.

Riggleman the Dodgers' bench coach, managed San Diego for just more than two seasons and was the Chicago Cubs' manager for five seasons before being fired in 1999. He has a 486-598 record as a major league manager.

Riggleman met with Mets General Manager Omar Minaya. New York already has interviewed Vankees coach Willie Randolph former managers Carlos Tosca and Terry Collins and Texas Rang-

ers hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo Wally Backman pulled out of the managerial hunt to focus on his bid to get a job with the Arizona Diamondbacks

The Mets, who finished fourth in the NL East, dismissed Howe on Sent 15 but he completed the season. He was midway through a \$9.4 million, four-year contract.

Phillies interview former catcher Russell

PHILADELPHIA - John Russell might be perceived as a long shot among Philadelphia Phillies managerial candidates.

Jim Fregosi and Jim Leyland managed in the World Series. Charlie Manuel and Grady Little took teams to the AL Champion-

And Russell? He once was

pect in the Pacific Coast League.

There's a pretty large experience gap between Russell and some of the others. Still, the former Phillies catcher thinks he can handle the job as well as he handled a pitching staff.

"There's history. I played here," said Russell, who inter-viewed Wednesday. "There were days I couldn't stand to read the paper. There were days you kind of enjoyed it depending on what kind of story you might get. I think it's very important you kind of know what the city is like.

Russell was a first-round pick (13th overall) by the Phillies in the 1982 draft and played for them from 1984-88. He also played for Atlanta and Texas in a 10-year career, hitting 34 homers with 129 RBIs and a .225 average.

His best season was 1986, when Russell had 13 homers and 60 RBIs. He also homered for Texas when he caught Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan's sixth no- hitter in

Russell is the third base coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates and managed for eight years in the Minnesota Twins' organization.

The Phillies, who fired Larry Bowa with two games left in the season, already have interviewed former managers Don Baylor, Buddy Bell, Manuel, Little, and Fregosi. Braves Pregosi. They will interview Braves batting coach Terry Pendleton on Thursday and former Pittsburgh, Florida and Colorado manager Jim Leyland on Monday.

Pendleton and Russell are the only candidates without major league managerial experience.

from start to finish

By MIKE FITZPATRICK The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS - The Boston Red Sox never trailed during their four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals, becoming the fourth team in World Series history to accomplish that feat

The others were the 1963 Los Angeles Dodgers, the 1966 Balti-more Orioles and the 1989 Oakland Athletics.

"It's never easy, but we didn't allow them the chance to come back. We know how good they are we respect that" Red Soy manager Terry Francona said after a 3-0 victory clinched the title Wednesday night. "We got out of here with the ring we needed. Now we can celebrate.

Boston is the third consecutive wild-card team to win the World Series, joining Anaheim (2002) and Florida (2003). The Red Soy also became the first club to win eight straight games in a single postseason

AT LAST: The two largest newspapers in Boston rolled out extra editions after the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years. Both carried single-word headlines to capture the historic moment.

The Boston Globe doubled its press run to more than 850,000 for Thursday's editions, according to Michael Larkin, night operations editor. Their third edition dubbed a Victory Edition —

was rolling shortly before 2 a.m. with the headline "YES!!!" extra edition was planned for later in the morning The Boston Herald doubled its

press run to about 600,000 copies, according to night city editor Jose Martinez. The newspaper published an extra with the headline

"I'm sure there are a lot of peo ple in New England that are dancing in the streets right now," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Α COLLECTION: Among the items headed to the Hall of Fame after Boston's first World Series title since 1918 are Curt Schilling's spikes, the bat Johnny Damon used to hit a leadoff homer in Game 4, MVP Manny Ramirez's bat and Keith Foulke's spikes.

THIRD TIME A CHARM: Jason Varitek has come close to championships before. This time, he took home the big prize.

The Red Sox catcher is the second person to play in the Little League World Series, the College Series and the major league World Series. After falling short in the previous two title games, Varitek helped Boston complete a four-game sweep of St. Louis with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night, clinching the team's first championship since

"I'm happy for our fans," Varitek said. "This is just the greatest.

Varitek led Altamonte Springs (Fla.) to the U.S. championship in the 1984 Little League World Series. He also played for Georgia Tech in the '94 College World Se-



team also featured Nomar Garciaparra and Jay Pay ton but lost to

Oklahoma in the title round. The first person to play in all three was pitcher Ed Vosberg, who played in the Little League World Series in 1974 for the runner-up team from Tucson, Ariz., for the NCAA champions from the University of Arizona in 1980, and for the world champion Florida Marlins in 1997

Game 4 on Wednesday night was also the first time in major league World Series history that Little League World Series participants faced each other as pitcher and batter.

Cardinals pitcher Jason Mar quis played for South Shore Little League of Staten Island, N.Y., in the 1991 Little League World Sehelping his team third-place finish. He pitched two shutouts for the U.S. East team including a no-hitter against Cana-

WE REMEMBER YOU: The Boston Red Sox have not forgotten Nomar Garcianarra

Reports said the team voted a full playoff share to its former shortstop, who was traded to the Chicago Cubs in a deal that helped spark Boston's resurgence

"I voted him to have a full share because he was a big part of us getting to the point we got, said nitcher Tim Wakefield the team's longest-tenured player and its former union representative. "And I think he deserves it. The five-time All-Star was one

of the best players in Red Sox history, but was hurt by the team's attempts to trade him for Alex Rodriguez last offseason. When the deal fell through, Garciaparra remained in Boston.

He was sent to Chicago on July 31 for former Gold Glove winners Orlando Cabrera and Doug Mientkiewicz. The Red Sox responded with improved defense that led them to the best record in baseball the rest of the way.

NEW ENGLAND NEMESIS: St Louis teams have been bedeviled

by Boston for years. The last time a pro team from St. Louis made it to the championship round in baseball, football, hockey and basketball, it lost to a squad from Boston.

"I'm very, very sick of them. You just want to scream," said Marianne Sutter, a St. Louis fan who roots for the hometown Cardinals, Rams and Blues. "They're definitely a thorn in our side.

The St. Louis Rams were favored by more than two touchdowns against New England in the 2002 Super Bowl but the Patriots pulled off a 20-17 upset on Vinatieri's last-second 48-yard field goal.

The Roston Bruins swent the Blues in the 1970 Stanley Cup finals, clinching their first title in 29 years when Hall of Fame defenseman Bobby Orr scored in overtime of Game 4. The play was captured in a famous photo of Orr flying through the air after his dramatic goal





No more waiting until next year in Boston

BY JAY LINDSAY The Associated Press

BOSTON - The Boston Red Sox returned to Fenway Park on Thursday to cheering fans who have waited generations for a World Series victory.

After too many disappointing Octobers, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday to sweep the World Series in four games, bringing the city its first title since 1918.

"They've waited their entire lives, every year saving this is the year and meaning it, and this IS the year. And that's just incredibly gratifying to be part of it," owner John Henry said.

Center fielder Johnny Damon, who hit a lead-off home run in the final game, said the team had a feeling it was going to make histo-

"We knew we were going to get the job done.

A few hundred people, gathered on Yawkey Way as the sun rose on a clear, chilly morning, cheered as veteran designated-hitter Ellis Burks carried the championship trophy off the team

"Nothing's going to be the same. What the best part is six months from now, I'm going to be doing something at three in the afternoon and come back and think of this, and it's going to be unbe-



Red Sox fans gather around Fenway Park in Boston early Thursday morning, waiting for their triumphant team to return home.

lievable," said Matt Savage, 33, a salesman from Wilmington.

The city's newspapers reflected the jubilant mood, with The Globe proclaiming " atop its special "Victory "YESIII Edition" on Thursday and the Boston Herald running a headline reading, "AMEN! Series sweep answers Sox fans' prayers." The Globe's sports section was headlined "Finally!" above a photo of Red Sox players celebrating after the game's final out

Fans across the state celebrated, proclaiming the end of a legendary hex put on the team after it sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1920

"Babe Has Left the Building," read one message painted on a sheet draped across the front of O'Toole's Pub in the South Shore town of Whitman

City and team officials said a victory parade would likely be held Saturday, but logistics were still being worked out.

It was a joyous, but more subdued, scene than a few hours earlier, when tens of thousands of giddy fans gathered near the historic stadium where so many of the team's previous tragedies have played out.

But this year was different. Not only did the Sox turn the tables on comeback in the ALCS, but they emerged victorious in a World Se ries sween over their National League nemesis: the St. Louis Car-

"It doesn't get better than this," said Eric Imhof, 23, of Boston. "And to be alive during this is one of the greatest things to happen to us, because you never know when it's going to happen again.

In Kenmore Square, one man got on his knees and with tears welling in his eyes, shouted "Thank you God!" over and over above the din of the crowd.

Intent on avoiding the ugliness that erupted after the Game 7 victory over the Yankees, when a college student was killed, police were out in full force — some of them in riot gear and gas masks - trying to disperse the crowds that lingered into the morning hours

Officers blocked streets and used percussion grenades and smoke canisters to clear the

Fires were lit, fireworks were set off, and some revelers tossed bottles at police.

A police spokesman said there were 35 arrests made, most for disorderly conduct. Nineteen revelers were taken to hospitals and 30 were treated at the scene. And one officer was at Boston Medical Center with a shoulder injury.

At the University of Massachu setts in Amherst, campus police made about 25 arrests after students streamed out of dorms in a raucous celebration. No injuries were reported there.

The heavy police presence didn't dampen the mood among fans who waited generations for this moment.

Keith Lyons, 36, a Myrtle Beach, S.C., bar manager originally from Beverly, took the week off from work and drove north with his wife, Jessica, 29, just so he could be on Sox home turf to witness it all.

Lyons recalled getting out of school early to watch a one-game playoff between the Red Sox and Vankees in 1978

'When Bucky Dent hit that home run, I wanted to leave the room. But my mother said, 'You can't be a fair-weather fan.' From that point on. I knew what it was like to be a Red Sox fan," he said.

In 1986, the last time the Sox were in a World Series, he made sure to have a bottle of champagne chilling for what he thought would be a victory over the New York Mets. He still has the same hottle

"The champagne is sitting in my hotel room cooling for the first time since 1986," he said. "I really don't care how it tastes.

Associated Press Writers Jennifer Peter, Greg Sukiennik, Matt Pitta, Adam Gorlick, Theo Emery and Mark Jewell con-tributed to this report. **World Series**

Lowe takes teammates to new heights

Red Sox right-hander becomes first pitcher to win three clinchers in same postseason

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press ST. LOUIS - Derek Lowe

stood in the boisterous Boston clubhouse, a bottle of champagne in one hand, a cigar in the other. "Unbelievable," he said. "No

more going to Yankee Stadium and having to listen to '1918!' "

Dave Ferriss failed. Jim Lonborg failed.

So did Bill Lee, Roger Clemens and Bruce Hurst, too, names piled high on the heap of Red Sox flops near the finish Lowe came through

Starting this day, he's forever a Red Sox hero, a name to be remembered by children throughout New England as long as baseball is played in Boston.

He did it! With the Red Sox one precious victory from that elusive World Series title, Lowe came through with the game of a life. time, the missing highlight to be played over and over and over especially when the Yankees come to Fenway Park.

Lowe ended 86 years of low-lights, helped the Red Sox get over the top. He shut out the St Louis Cardinals on three hits in seven innings, and completed an amazing World Series sween the first for the Red Sox - with a 3-0 victory Wednesday night that made him the first pitcher to win three postseason clinchers in one vear

Already, Lowe was looking ahead to the biggest parade Bos ton has seen since the British were chased out of town

"It gets me tingling to think about it." he said. This year, let the party go on all

weekend, with Lowe receiving

The first pitcher to win a World Series clincher for Boston since Carl Mays in 1918, he put up zeros on the scoreboard as Johnny Damon's leadoff homer in the first and Trot Nixon's two-run double in third provided the of-fense that sent Boston on to its eighth straight postseason victo-

Before the game, Lowe was in Boston's dugout on the third-base side of Busch Stadium singing. 'If you're happy and you know it,

31-year-old right-hander, born in Dearborn, Mich., and a resident of Boston's spring training town of Fort Myers, Fla., Lowe has been with the Red Sox since 1997, was their closer in 2000 and much of 2001 before 10 losses in relief caused Boston to bounce him back to the rotation.

Then, the following April 27, he pitched a no-hitter against Tampa Bay. But he went 0-3 in the playoffs in 2003 and this year, the final season in his contract. slumped to a 14-12 record and a 5.42 ERA. By the time the playoffs came around, he was out of the rotation.



Derek Lowe, who was 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA during the regular season, allowed three hits in seven innings as the Red Sox clinched the World Series with a 3-0 victory over St. Louis.

"We talked to him in Baltimore, told him he was going to the bullpen. He wasn't happy," manager Terry Francona said. "We told him he had a day to pout, vell or whatever, because he was going to have something to do in the playoffs. We didn't know how much. But to his credit, he did what he was supposed to do. He didn't pout. He got himself ready,

He got the victory against Anaheim in the final game of the first round. Then, when Tim Wakefield wound up being used in re-

and look at what he did."

lief in Game 3 against the Yankees. Lowe was called on to start Game 4.

Boston won that one in extra innings, and Lowe started and won Game 7, allowing one hit over six innings as Boston completed its historic comeback from an 0-3

"When you think you're down as far as you can go, I kept getting back up," Lowe said. "I gave myself the nickname 'Cockroach' in the Anaheim series. They kept try-ing to kill me. I'd find a way to wiggle back to life."

Grady Little, Francona's predecessor, had questioned whether Lowe was out too late at night and suggested that Lowe's body language on the mound was a sign of trouble.

"When Pedro [Martinez] pitches a bad game, he pitches a bad game. ... When I pitch bad, I'm a mental Gidget," Lowe said last July after a string of bad outings.

Boston had looked far and wide for the pitcher who could get that final victory, could lead the Red Sox back to the title. He was in the clubhouse all the time.

Scampering about the clubhouse, with champagne flying, he thought about the ceremonies. The flag gets raised at Fenway on April 11, with the Yankees on hand to watch.

He didn't want to wait for the

hardware.
"I wish," he said, "we could get our rings tomorrow."

Saturday, Oct. 23
Boston 11, St. Louis 9
Boston 6, St. Louis 2
Boston 6, St. Louis 2
Tuesday, Oct. 26
Boston 4, St. Louis 1
Boston 3, St. Louis 0, Boston wins series

Wednesday Red Sox 3, Cardinals 0 ST. LOUIS

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1932 – New York (AL) 4, Chicago (NL) 0 1928 – New York (AL) 4, St. Louis (NL) 0 1927 – New York (AL) 4, Pittsburgh (NL) 0 1922 – New York (NL) 4, New York (AL) 0, 1 tie 1914 – Boston (NL) 4, Phildelphia (AL) 0 1907 – Chicago (NL) 4, Detrolt (AL) 0, 1 tie

Red Sox: Boston ends 86 years of futility

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It was Boston's sixth championship, but the first after 86 years of frustration and futility, after two world wars, the Great Depression, men on the moon, and the

rise and fall of the Soviet Union.

After all that, on an eerie night when the moon went dark in a total eclipse, MVP Manny Ramirez and the Red Sox made it

look easy.

They became the third straight wild-card team to win the Series, and the first club to win eight

straight in a postseason.

Gone was the heartbreak of four Game 7 losses since their last title, a drought — some insist it was a curse — that really began after they sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920.

Pankees in 1920.

Damon's leadoff homer against

Jason Marquis and Trot Nixon's two-out, two-run double on a 3-0 pitch in the third were all that Lowe and the bullpen needed.

"They outplayed us in every category, so it ended up not being a terrific competition," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

"We were ready to play. We didn't play good enough."

Having won the first-round clincher against Anaheim in relief and then winning Game 7 at Yankee Stadium, Lowe blanked the Cards on a mere three hits for seven innings

Relievers Bronson Arroyo and Alan Embree worked the eighth and Keith Foulke finished it off for his first save.

Even before Doug Mientkiewicz caught Foulke's toss on Edgar Renteria's grounder for the last out, the Red Sox were rushing out of the dugout. Boston players streamed in from the bullpen, and they all came together in a pulsating pile between the mound and first base.

With flashbulbs popping, the hugging and jumping was electrifying. And why not? The day that would never quite come for a gen-

would never quite come for a generation of Red Sox players and fans had arrived. "We can't reverse what was a

"We can't reverse what was a long time ago," first-year manager Terry Francona said. "This was our team this year. You can't do anything else about any other

Now the Red Sox get to raise the World Series banner next April 11 in the home opener at Fenway Park, with the vanquished Yankees in town forced to watch. No telling who will be there — 18 Boston players are potential free agents, including Martinez and Lowe.

Lowe followed up peak performances by Curt Schilling and Martinez, capping off a year in which Boston traded away popular shortstop Nomar Garciaparra.

"Tm so happy. I'm happy for the fans in Boston, I'm happy for Johnny Pesky, for Bill Buckner, for (Bob) Stanley and (Calvin) Schiraldi and all the great Red Sox players who can now be remembered for the great players that they were," Schilling said.

Schilling got himself traded from Arizona to Boston last November, eager to beat the Yankees and put the Red Sox in the World Series for the first time since 1986. He made it worth his while, with the win ensuring him an extra \$15 million in a contract



Manny Ramire

Ramirez chosen as Series MVP

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Manny Ramirez will cherish this moment forever, same as every Red Sox fan from the bustle of downtown Boston to the coastal mountains of Maine.

Reminer and the Red Sox In-Reminer and the Red Sox In-Led with 3-0 yeich week of St. Lice with 3-0 yeich weeks day night, giving them heir first championship since 1918. Now the shy kid who grew up in the shadow of Yankee Stadium owns a treasured spot in baseball lore — he is Boston's first World Series MVP.

"I never thought I'd get to be part of a World Series winner. But it's fun, let me tell you," Ramirez said. "Before we went to spring training, I told my wife ... I'm going to be the MVP of something. And I did it."

I'm going to be the MVP of something. And I did it."

He batted .412 (7-for-17) with a homer and four RBIs against the Cardinals, helping the Red Sox

end 86 years of pain and futility. That was the idea when then-general manager Dan Duquette signed Ramirez to a \$160 million, eight-year deal in Decem-

ber 2000. Ramirez put up prodigious

power numbers during his first three seasons in Boston. But his awful defense, deplorable baserunning and hefty contract prompted the team to place him on waivers last offseason.

The front office then tried to

trade him to Texas for AL MVP Alex Rodriguez. The deal fell through, and Ramirez was back in left field this season, flubbing fly balls and hitting homers over the Green Monster at Fenway

He won his first AL home run crown, connecting 43 times. He also led the league in slugging percentage (.61.3) and finished with 130 RBIs. But his absent-minded play kept skeptics wondering if he was really the guy to finally carry Boston to glory in October.

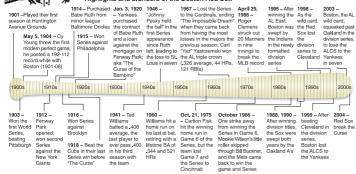
A long lineage of great sluggers had tried and failed, from Jimmie Foxx to Ted Williams to Carl Yastrzemski and Jim Rice. But it's Ramirez who became a champion, earning every penny of that enormous contract

Before the game, Ramirez and Barry Bonds received the 2004 Hank Aaron Award, recognizing the outstanding offensive player in each league. Ramirez also won with Cleveland in 1999, when he had 165 RBIs.

Red Sox reverse the Curse

The Red Sox finally broke "The Curse of the Bambino," sweeping the Cardinals in four games to win the World Series. This comes after beating the Yankees in the ALCS, achieving the greatest postseason series comeback in history. Many people attributed their 86-year tille drought to trading Babe Buth to the Yankees.

Highlights and blunders of the Boston Red Sox



SOURCE: Major League Baseball

$\mbox{\it Cards:}$ Powerful St. Louis lineup bows out quietly vs. Boston

CARDS, FROM BACK PAGE

"The odds obviously were against us," said Bill DeWitt Jr., the team's general partner and chairman of the board. "If we had won tonight it would be something to build on. But every time we hit the ball hard, it was right at somebody."

Mostly, St. Louis went quietly. The Cardinals scored one run in the last two games at home, where they had been 6-0 in the postseason, and were a woeful 4-for-28 with runners in scoring position in the Series.

The Cardinals totaled 12 runs, the fewest since the Braves had nine when they were swept by the Yankees in 1999.

The life seemed drained out of the Cardinals after their most forgettable play of the Series, pitcher Jeri Suppan Irozen between third and home with one out in the third inning of Game 3. Instead of tying the score at 1 on a run that the Red Sox had been conceding, Suppan ran into a double play.

Starting with that at-bat, the Cardinals reached base only seven times in 54 plate appearances the rest of the Series, getting a homer, a double, three singles and two walks against a Red Sox staff that was considered far from dominant. They advanced only four runners into scoring position in Game 4.

It seemed as if it was shaping up as a sluggers' series after the Red Sox's 11-9 victory in Game 1. After that, the Cardinals scored just three runs.

Cleanup hitter Scott Rolen, second in the NL with 124 RBIs, was 0-for-15 with one RBI. He finished the year in a 12-for-75 skid after coming back from a strained left calf in mid-Septemher.

No. 5 hitter Jim Edmonds, who hit 42 homers and had a career-best 111 RBIs, was 1-for-15 with no RBIs. Sanders was 0-for-9 with five strikeouts before getting benched in favor of John Mabry in Game 4. Mabry continued that trend, going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

Albert Pujols and Larry Walker had their moments, but never with any support from the rest of the offense. Walker was 4-for-5 in Game 1 and homered for the Cardinals' lone run in Game 3. Pujols had three of St. Louis' five hits in Game 2 but was silent in the clincher before singling to lead off the ninth.

Pujols, Rolen and Edmonds were horrible in the clutch, going a combined 1-for-12. None of them got a chance for redemption in Game 4.

Pitching shouldered its share of the blame. Before Jason Marquis gutted out six innings in the 3-0 Game 4 loss, the Cardinals had gotten very little from the ro-

Marquis was the first starter to last long enough to qualify for a victory. The three pitchers who preceded him lasted a total of 11²/₅ innings and allowed 15 runs.

Cardinals pitchers allowed at least one run in the first inning of all four games. St. Louis was dominated so completely, it never led.

"It's amazing," said Game 1 loser Woody Williams. "We were talking about that on the bench: Let's get one lead and see what happens. But it never happened."

SPORTS



2003 NFL rookie of the year Boldin finally ready to make season debut for Arizona, Page 31

Red Sox 86 curse

Boston wins World Series for first time since 1918

BY BEN WALKER

ST. LOUIS — They are now forever a part of New England lore, names such as Pokey Reese right up there with Paul Revere and Plymouth Rock.

Because these Boston Red Sox — yes, the Boston Red Sox! — are World Series champions at long, long last. No more curse and no doubt about it.

Pedro Martinez paraded the trophy down the left-field line, hoisting it high over his head with both hands after Boston won it for the first time since 1918, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday night for a four-game sweep.

Thousands of Red Sox fans at Busch Stadium roared. Seeing was believing, but they still couldn't believe their eyes.

"We know people who are 90 years old who have just said: 'Just one championship before I die,' "Red Sox chairman Tom Werner said.

Johnny Damon homered on the fourth pitch of the game, Derek Lowe made it stand up and the Red Sox wrapped up a Series in which they never trailed.

Ridiculed and reviled through decades of defeat, the Red Sox didn't just defeat the Cardinals. They dominated the team with the best record in baseball.

"All of our fans have waited all their lives for this night, and it's finally here. These guys did it for you, New England," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Chants of "Thank you, Red Sox!" bounced all around the ballpark when it was over, with Boston fans as revved-up as they were relieved.

Only 10 nights earlier, the Red Sox were just three outs from getting swept by the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series before becoming the first team in baseball postseason history to overcome a 3-0 deficit.

SEE RED SOX ON PAGE 35



Boston Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek jumps into the arms of pitcher Keith Foulke after beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 to win the World Series on Wednesday in St. Louis. The Red Sox, who in the ALCS became the first team to win a best-of-seen series after trailing 3-0, won their first till since 1918.

St. Louis Cardinals center fielder Jim Edmonds, second from left, and shortstop Edgar Renteria, right, watch dejectedly during Wednesday night's loss to Boston in Game 4. The Cardinals, who won 105 games during the regular season, hit 1.09 and had a team ERA of 6.09 in the Series.

Ramirez becomes Boston's first Series MVP

Page 35

Long-suffering Red Sox fans can celebrate at last

Page 34

Lowe reaches high point by winning clincher

Page 34

Cards birds of another feather in Series play

BY R.B. FALLSTROM The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals seemingly could do no wrong during the regular season.

wrong during the regular season.

But that 105-win team bore no resemblance to the bunch that flopped in the World Series, losing 3-0 to Boston on Wednesday night and getting swept in four games by the Red Sox.

"I wish we would have given them a tougher fight," Reggie Sanders said. "They put the pressure on and we didn't have pressure on them at all, so it was an easy run for them."

The Cardinals had the National League's best offense and the second-best pitching staff. Not in the World Series, where they batter at feeble 190 and had a 6.09 ERA. The lineup was littered with historically bad performances at the plate, most notably by their tradible of MVP candidates. And, the Cardinals' rotation, minus injured Chris Carpenter, was exposed as average.

"They outplayed us in every category," manager Tony La Russa said. "So it ended up not being a terrific competition."

The Cardinals waited 17 years between World Series trips, only to end the season with a dubious distinction: Only one team had more victories before getting swept, the 1954 Indians, who were 111-43 before losing to the New York Giants

The wait was nearly as long for La Russa. Maybe it was even more gut-wrenching on a personal level, considering that in his last shot at the championship in 1990 his heavily favored Oakland Athletics got swept by the Cincinnati Reds.

After falling behind 3-0, ownership would have been happy with one victory. They were realistic not to expect another comeback like the Red Sox pulled off in the AL Championship Series against the Yankes

SEE CARDS ON PAGE 35



Risks not limited to track for 'NASCAR Air Force' Page 29